

# MUSIC AND THE INDIVIDUAL DURING TIMES OF WAR

*featuring*

## Klopoushak & Chiu



Carissa Klopoushak, violin  
Philip Chiu, piano

debut atlantic

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# Meet Klopoushak & Chiu

**Carissa Klopoushak** has made a name for herself as a curious, creative, and versatile musician. Based in Ottawa, she is a proud member of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Ironwood Quartet. A laureate of the 2018 Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank Competition, Carissa performs on the beautiful Maggini model 1851 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin. She has recently been named Interim Artistic Director of Ottawa Chamberfest, starting in that position in mid-August, 2020. Founder and Artistic Director of the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival in her hometown, Saskatoon, the festival, now in its 12th year, strives to bring the chamber music concert experience into the 21st century through fresh and innovative programming and presentation. Carissa, with her friends in the Ironwood Quartet, serves as co-director of the Classical Unbound Festival in Prince Edward County. Carissa enjoys performing in many different styles, especially Ukrainian folk music.

An exceedingly sociable pianist, **Philip Chiu** concertizes extensively as one of Canada's most sought-after chamber musicians. Along with pianist Janelle Fung, he forms one of Canada's most exciting piano duos, the Fung-Chiu Duo. Dedicated to elevating the standard and art of collaborative piano, Philip is the creator and director of the new Collaborative Piano Program at the Domaine Forget International Festival and Academy. He is an acclaimed accompanist-/coach based at McGill University, has been an invited professor--accompanist for the Conservatoire de musique de Montreal, and regularly accompanies at l'Universite de Montreal.

## Art-making during wartime

Artists, whether that be a musician, writer, actor, visual artist, dancer, etc. have long expressed their thoughts and emotions about war through their art.



**Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, 1937 - Picasso's distressing illustration of the terrors that occurred after the Nazi bombing of Guernica, Spain.**

# Famous depictions of war in classical music

Listen to 1-2 of the selections below.

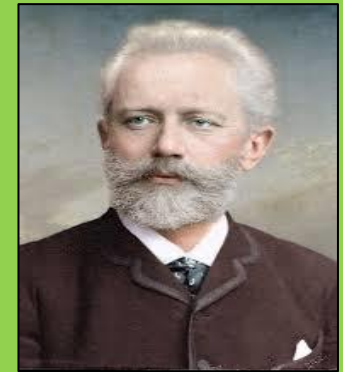


## Haydn – Mass in Time of War; 'Benedictus' and 'Agnus Dei' movements

Composed in August 1796 during the European War that followed the French Revolution, the Mass represents conflict and change. Austrian troops losing against the French in Italy and Germany. The troops feared an imminent invasion.

## Tchaikovsky – 1812 Overture

Conceived to commemorate the Battle of Borodino, fought in September 1812. The Battle of Borodino was fought during the Napoleonic Wars when the French unsuccessfully invaded Russia. In 1882, Russia was still glowing with pride at the memory of Tsar Alexander I's troops thrashing Napoleon's army – and Tchaikovsky had a cunning idea for a new composition, reflecting victory and national pride.

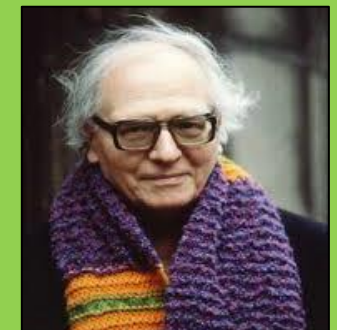


## Shostakovich – 'Leningrad' Symphony No. 7

Hitler's attack on Russia in 1941 inspired one of Shostakovich's greatest works, his 'Leningrad' Symphony No. 7. The composer dedicated his work to the city of Leningrad in 1941, and the Leningrad premiere of the piece took place while the city was still under siege by Nazi forces. The 'Leningrad' Symphony became popular in the Soviet Union as a symbol of resistance to Nazi occupation, as well as a musical memory of the estimated 27 million Soviet citizens who died in World War II.

## Messiaen - Quartet for the End of Time

French composer Olivier Messiaen wrote his 'Quatuor pour la fin du temps' when he was a prisoner of war in a German camp in 1940. It was premiered by Messiaen's fellow prisoners in the camp – on ruined instruments. Messiaen later said of the performance: "Never was I listened to with such rapt attention and comprehension". It has come to be one of the composer's most important works.





# WRITING

After listening to one of the suggested pieces, write a journal entry, poem, or story that you feel goes along with the music.

Which piece did you listen to?

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What range of emotions was depicted by the composer/performers?

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Describe the mood/tempo/tonality.

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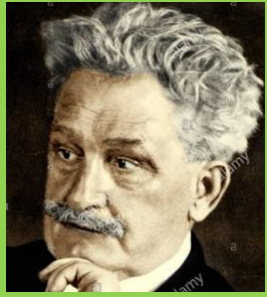
What are some of the musical devices that are used to suggest despair/darkness/death?

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# Leoš Janáček's Sonata for Violin and Piano



"...In the 1914 Sonata for violin and piano I could just about hear the sound of the steel clashing in my troubled head..."

Janáček began work on his Violin Sonata with the clash of WWI all around him. Despite calling this work a sonata, he avoided traditional forms, writing in the manner of a stream of consciousness.



Look up recordings of Carissa Klopoushak and Philip Chiu performing the Janáček Violin Sonata from YouTube, listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or retrieve sound files on iTunes. Listen actively and answer the following questions.

**What did Janáček mean to convey through his music? Specify the movement.**

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**What musical devices did he use? Were they effective?**

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**To what extent does the music express his response to the war that he experienced?**

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# COMPOSITION PROJECT

**Individually or in small digital groups, create/improvise a short work that is meant to express your own response to war/death/darkness.**

The medium might be computer software, traditional instruments, and/or voices, or “found” sounds. A point of inspiration might be the Picasso piece that you viewed, or one of pieces you listened to above.

**1) What were some of the challenges in this project?**

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**2) What did you learn about the role of music in expressing human emotion?**

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