



An Evening of Chamber Music
March 15, 2025

PROGRAM NOTES

Schilflieder, op.28

August Klughardt
(1847-1902)

- I. Langsam, träumerisch
- II. Leidenschaftlich erregt
- III. Zart, in ruhiger Bewegung
- IV. Feurig
- V. Sehr ruhig

Inspired by the poetry of Nikolaus Lenau, Schilflieder is a lush and evocative work for oboe, viola, and piano that captures the interplay between nature and human emotion. Composed in 1872, Klughardt's five-movement suite blends late Romantic lyricism with hints of Impressionistic color, painting scenes of

rustling reeds, moonlit waters, and wistful solitude. The music's delicate textures and rich harmonies create an intimate, dreamlike atmosphere, reflecting both the beauty and melancholy of the natural world..

– *Matthew Aubin*

Ghosts in Gray and Blue

(World Premiere)

Adolphus Hailstork

(b.1941)

Ghosts in Grey and Blue was written in 2011-2012, two years of the 150th commemoration of the start of the US Civil War, 1861-1865. This composition is a reflection on that pivotal event in American history in which 750k soldiers died.

The work is divided into eight sections and is through-composed.

1: "Cauldron of Dispute" represents the antebellum era just before the war with aleatoric writing which

continues as the trumpet first sounds the principal themes of the work.

2: “Fanfare” announces the beginning of hostilities

3: Battle Music 1 –one can hear the tumultuous energy in the exchange of conflicting ideas and early skirmishes

4: Presents a quiet moment but with a gruesome intent, called “The Surgeon’s Tent” depicting the roughshod and messy nature of medical field surgery of the day.

5: Cannon Fodder, March! Depicts the beginning of full-scale conflicts of the war. The title is reflections the grim reality that soldiers faced, having been used as disposable “cannon fodder” on the front lines of the war. In it, we hear a surprise instrumentation. We will leave it to the listener to determine the symbolism of the part.

6: Battle Music 2. All these young people going to their deaths – Imagine Gettysburg as we segue into a full on physical, bloody battle.

7: “A Noble Cause.” This view of the abolitionist cause

is depicted in a slow meditative segment during which the Black spiritual “Deep River” can be heard. Still today some people want to dispute what the Civil War was about, but all historic record proves that it was about ending slavery.

8: “The Cauldron of Peace” depicts the boiled over violence, finally subsided. We hear just a hint of conflict at the very end, a nod towards the unresolved nature of equality in the United States.

This performance is dedicated to the 160th anniversary of the Civil War’s end, and the continued resolution to end all forms of slavery.

– *Adolphus Hailstork / Adam Schommer*

Octet in F Major, D.803

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)

I. Adagio - Allegro

II. Adagio

III. Scherzo. Allegro vivace

IV. Andante

V. Menuetto. Allegretto

VI. Andante molto

Commissioned in 1824 by Count Ferdinand Troyer, Schubert's Octet is a radiant and expansive chamber work that draws inspiration from Beethoven's Septet, Op. 20. Scored for clarinet, bassoon, horn, two violins, viola, cello, and double bass, the piece unfolds over six movements with a symphonic breadth, seamlessly blending lyrical beauty, Viennese charm, and playful virtuosity. From the tender opening Adagio to the spirited finale, the Octet showcases Schubert's gift for melody and dramatic contrast, offering a work both intimate and grand in its expressive range.

– *Matthew Aubin*