

PROGRAMME

Laurence Perkins with orchestra	Andante e Rondo Ungrese	<i>Carl Maria von Weber, arr. Perkins</i>
	<i>Originally composed for bassoon and piano, this version was arranged by Laurence Perkins specifically for amateur orchestra (as were his other pieces below).</i>	
Schools' Orchestra	Canon My Grandfather's Clock	<i>Johann Pachelbel</i> <i>Henry Clay Work, arr. Pete Cowling</i>
	<i>Pachalbel originally wrote his famous Canon for three violins and basso continuo but it has been arranged for many instrumental combinations. My Grandfather's Clock was inspired by a longcase clock the American composer saw in an old English inn.</i>	
Laurence Perkins with orchestra	Marche funèbre d'une marionnette	<i>Charles Gounod, arr. Perkins</i>
	<i>Perhaps best known as the theme music for the 1955-65 television program Alfred Hitchcock Presents, the Marche was written in 1872 for solo piano then orchestrated in 1879.</i>	
Laurence Perkins with strings	Three Hebridean Melodies	<i>Perkins</i>
	<i>The three melodies are a personal choice – the first, 'Mountain Shadow', was collected by Marjory Kennedy-Fraser. This is followed by 'Aighish on the Machair' well known in Capercaillie's version included in the '80s television series 'The Blood is Strong' which is followed by 'The Cockle Gatherers', a highly popular and widely-performed tune.</i>	
Wendy Riva	Wendy's Set Of Favourite Encores	<i>arr. Wendy Riva</i>
	<i>A medley for solo violin, including, Kalinka (famous Russian folk music), the Can-Can (French dance by Jacques Offenbach) and Caprice No. 24 in A minor, Theme and Variations (Niccolo Paganini).</i>	

INTERVAL

Orchestra	Symphony No.6, the 'Pastoral'	<i>Ludwig van Beethoven</i>
-----------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Beethoven's Symphony No.6, the 'Pastoral'

This, along with the Fifth Symphony, is Beethoven's most famous work. It was composed immediately after the Fifth and the two were first performed in the same programme on December 22, 1808 in Vienna. Beethoven was living in the village of Heiligenstadt at the time, a village on the bank of the river Danube. Beethoven loved nature and liked to spend most of the day in summer outdoors. He used to stroll about in the woodland and fields with his note book in his hand and once said:

*"I like trees better than people. Nobody loves Nature more than I.
Woods, trees, mountains – they give the answer to one's problems"*

Each of the five movements bears a descriptive title suggesting a scene from life in the countryside.

1st Movement – Awakening of happy feeling on getting out into the county

The opening and main theme played in turn by strings and woodwind sounds like a shepherd's song.

2nd Movement – By the brook side

Towards the end of this movement various birdcalls are imitated. Beethoven gave the copy writer instructions to note on the parts & score "Write the words nightingale, quail and cuckoo in first flute, first oboe and first and second clarinet" Here SLO members Meg (flute), Sam (oboe), John and Amy (clarinets) endeavour to add bird calls to their repertoire.

3rd Movement - Peasant's merrymaking

According to Beethoven's friend Schindler, Beethoven had written some short waltzes for a small country orchestra of seven men who played in the public house "The Three Ravens" in Upper Brühl. When Schindler was with him one day listening to the group he pointed out how sometimes the musicians drowsy with beer often sat there half asleep would nod off then start playing again. Beethoven tries to depict this musically when at one point the oboe does sound like it is coming in late with the melody over the string accompaniment.

4th Movement – Thunderstorm

Trembling passages by the bass instruments and percussion in this passage are very realistic as the storm gains force, the thunder rumbles (Arthur on the Timpani) then without a break we lead into the 5th and final movement.

5th Movement – Shepherd's song – Happy and Thankful feelings after the storm

The symphony ends with a happy and up cheerful movement as the storm clouds clear and the sun shine. The villagers and shepherds gather and the main theme sounds like a yodelling song. The Pastoral Symphony became very popular with many performances during Beethoven's lifetime.

Sam Nicolson – information and extracts from: K.B Sandved (1965) The World of Music D.J. Grout (1983) A History of Western Music Boosey & Hawkes Pocket Score: Beethoven Symphony 6.