



BREVE

The Kettle Moraine Symphony Newsletter

Def: Brève, brev 1. (music) a note having the time value of two whole notes 2. (gen) brief, short

Welcome back to the Kettle Moraine Symphony Newsletter!

Did you know that fewer than 2% of communities have symphony orchestras? Washington County is fortunate to have one of these amazing symphonies. We begin our 2025-2026 season on Saturday, October 4th at 3PM held at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School – 3399 Division Rd.

Jackson. This concert contains some of our audience choices recommended from last fall's concert.

Romeo and Juliet by Tchaikovsky

Russian Easter Overture by Rimsky-Korsakov

Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky

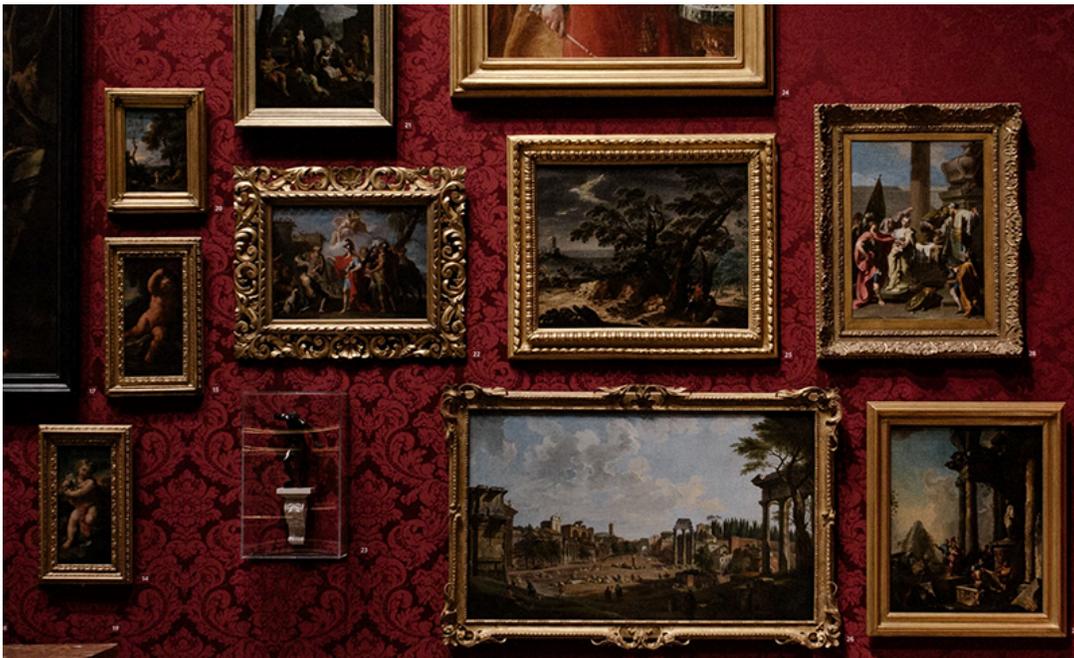


Mily Alexeyevich Balakirev, a Russian composer, pianist and conductor, suggested *Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky* write a piece of music based on

William Shakespeare's **Romeo and Juliet**. Tchaikovsky completed the work and dedicated it to Balakirev. The first version premiered on March 16, 1870. The piece was revised multiple times by Tchaikovsky based on Balakirev's criticisms. It was completed on September 10, 1880, but premiered on May 1, 1886. The Overture has been used in many television programs and movies, such as Columbo, The Jazz Singer, and the Simpsons.



The second piece is **Russian Easter Overture**, composed by *Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov*. It celebrates the Russian Easter tradition. Unique instruments in this piece include the glockenspiel (representing tolling church bells) and tam-tam (which is a type of gong). The piece transitions from the gloomy and mysterious Holy Saturday to pagan-religious merrymaking on Easter morning.



The final piece is **Pictures at an Exhibition** by *Modest Mussorgsky*. It depicts the composer walking through a gallery featuring works by Viktor Hartmann. Hartmann's sudden death in 1873 shook Mussorgsky and plunged him into despair. To cope, he composed the score of Pictures at an Exhibition for solo piano in 3 weeks. The music depicts his tour of the exhibition of art. There are 10 numbers serving as a musical illustration of 10 of the art works painted by Hartmann. Maurice Ravel adapted this piece for orchestra in 1922.

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Kettle Moraine Symphony

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