



MY MUSIC – a Music Department podcast

Podcast 11 – Miss Ruth Wang

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1. ***Piano Concerto No. 2, 3rd movement* (Dmitri Shostakovich, 1906-1975)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CKqobY7l84>

Shostakovich is regarded as one of the major composers of the 20th century. He achieved fame in the Soviet Union but had a complicated and, at times, turbulent relationship with the government, particularly under Stalin's regime. Shostakovich used a musical cryptogram of his name in some of his works: D, Eb, C, B. In German musical notation these are D, Es, C, H (pronounced De, Es, Ce, Ha) which spells his initials: **D**mitri **SCH**ostakovich. It is thought he used this to disguise true feelings and intentions in his music, that on the surface was true Soviet Art. Shostakovich's musical output was extensive and included 15 symphonies, 15 string quartets, 6 concerti, much music for the piano (of which he was a virtuoso), 3 operas, song cycles, ballets, film scores, and pieces influenced by jazz. He had a formidable memory and inner ear, a musical gift akin to that of Mozart. Shostakovich could compose a piece of music in his head – for instance a symphony - completely, with all parts worked out including orchestration; and only then write it out neatly in full.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dmitri_Shostakovich

2. ***Belle* (from “Notre-Dame de Paris)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lefbtf5jjbg>

Notre-Dame de Paris is a sung-through French musical from 1998. It is based on Victor Hugo's novel of the same name and is the story of Quasimodo and his doomed love for Esmeralda. Many of Hugo's works have inspired music, both during his lifetime and after his death, including *Les Misérables*. This was first produced in France (1980) and later in London (1985). The composers of *Les Mis* were inspired by a production of *Oliver!* where the artful dodger reminded them of little Gavroche.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notre-Dame_de_Paris_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notre-Dame_de_Paris_(musical))

3. ***Sonata for Violin and Piano, 4th movement* (César Franck, 1822-1890)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VkYFYZ1rkM>

César Franck was a composer, pianist, organist and music teacher who was born in Belgium and worked in Paris. Franck often used a “cyclic form” in his writing, to achieve unity across movements in a work, with a germinal motif as the linking musical idea. His compositions were of the late romantic style, with colourful harmony and complex counterpoint. He had large hands and could span a 12th on the keyboard. It was written of the *Sonata for Violin and Piano*: “Franck, blissfully apt to forget that not every musician's hands were as enormous as his own, littered the piano part with major-tenth chords...”.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/César_Franck