

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

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PREVIEW
NOTES

TRIBUTE CONCERT TO LEON BATES

w/Ahn Trio, Portland String Quartet, Borealis Wind Quintet
Dynasty Battles, *piano*; Louise Toppin, *soprano*; Joseph Joubert, *piano*
Sunday, December 9 – 3 PM
Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM (Selection of Program Notes)

Piano Trio

Leonard Bernstein

Born: August 25, 1918, in Lawrence, MA

Died: October 14, 1990, in New York, NY

Composed: 1937

Duration: 17 minutes

Bernstein's Trio for violin, cello, and piano dates back to his days at Harvard, where he studied piano with Heinrich Gebhard and composition with William Piston. In September 1936, Bernstein was in Maine; as one of his fellow students, Mildred Spiegel, recalls, "He borrowed the farmer's truck and drove to the Emerson House at York Harbor where I was playing with my trio. I was delightfully surprised." Apparently, the visit gave Bernstein the inspiration to begin a trio, and he completed it in 1937 at the age of 19.

Piano Sonata No. 1

George Walker

Born: June 27, 1922, in Washington, DC

Died: August 23, 2018, in Montclair, NJ

Composed: 1953

Duration: 17 minutes

Piano Sonata No. 1 is Walker's first major piano work. It is commanding in its scope and power. From the opening measures onward, many features of Walker's style are evident, including chromaticism, counterpoint, and structural clarity. The second movement is a set of variations in A Major based on the gentle folk song, *O Bury Me Beneath The Willow*. The third movement, cast in an arch form, is dynamic, driven, and toccata-like. Another folk song, *Liza*, is found nearly one minute into the final movement.

Suite for Wind Quintet, Op. 57

Charles Édouard-Lefebvre

Born: September 26, 1898, in Brooklyn, NY

Died: July 11, 1937, in Los Angeles, CA

Composed: c. 1884

Duration: 15 minutes

Lefebvre, a son of the French painter Jules Lefebvre, studied law before entering the Paris Conservatoire. In 1870, he won the Prix de Rome, returning three years later to Paris where he spent most of his life teaching and composing. The Suite, Op. 57, for wind quintet has been a favorite in the repertoire since its composition; it is one of the few French quintets from that time to have endured.

String Quartet No. 1, from the Salvation Army

Charles Ives

Born: October 20, 1874, in Danbury, CT

Died: May 19, 1954, in New York, NY

Composed: 1898-1902

Duration: 22 minutes

Ives wrote his String Quartet No. 1 at Yale University during his sophomore year. Like many of Ives' compositions, the work is based on a series of compositions that Ives had written for church services. The piece is also subtitled *A Revival Service*, and it liberally quotes a variety of hymns that were popular in Ives' day with fragmentary traces of *Coronation*, *Beulah Land*, *Shining Shore*, and others. At times, he turns the themes upside down or combines two hymns. As if to drive the point home, the final movement ends with an "Amen" plagal cadence.