

Around the World - 7:30 Recital Notes

Sarah Cao – London Bridge, arranged by Burnam

We begin in London, where one of the world's most iconic bridges has stood in various forms for over a thousand years. One version of the bridge, built in the nineteenth century, was even relocated to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Sarah Cao opens our recital with London Bridge, arranged by Burnam—a cheerful interpretation of the traditional tune, capturing the playful spirit of a song passed down through generations.

Evelyn Ray – Polynesian Afternoon by Colley

Evelyn Ray takes us to the South Pacific with Polynesian Afternoon by Colley. This gentle piece evokes the warmth of a tropical breeze, the rhythm of the waves, and the relaxed feeling of a quiet island afternoon.

Caleb Ray – España by Mier

Caleb Ray transports us to Spain with España by Martha Mier. This vibrant piece captures the energy of Spanish music with lively rhythms and bold harmonies, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural traditions of Iberian dance and song.

Shreshta Badugu – Sakura, Traditional Japanese

Shreshta Badugu performs Sakura, a traditional Japanese melody that means “cherry blossoms.” This haunting and beautiful piece reflects the fleeting beauty of the cherry blossom season, a symbol of renewal and the passage of time in Japanese culture.

Gemma Fisk – Unicorn Land by Rollin

Gemma Fisk takes us into a world of fantasy with Unicornland by Catherine Rollin. With its shimmering harmonies and magical melodies, this piece invites us to imagine a dreamy landscape where unicorns roam freely through enchanted forests.

Jonah Fisk – Japanese Game Song by Mitsuda

Jonah Fisk brings us into the world of video game music with a piece by Japanese composer Yasunori Mitsuda. Known for his work on classic games like Chrono Trigger and Xenogears, Mitsuda blends emotion and atmosphere in music that's as moving as it is memorable.

Henry Dunn – Swan Lake

Our journey now takes us to Russia, as Henry Dunn performs an arrangement of *Swan Lake*, originally composed by Tchaikovsky and arranged by Abby Knudson. This graceful piece captures the elegance and emotion of one of the world's most famous ballets.

James Dunn – The Irish Rover

Our next stop is Ireland, where James Dunn will perform *The Irish Rover*, arranged by Kevrin. This lively tune tells the tale of a legendary ship and reflects the spirited storytelling and musical energy of Irish folk traditions.

Henry Dunn – Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Knudsen

Henry Dunn performs Swan Lake, one of Tchaikovsky's most beloved ballet themes, arranged by Knudsen. This elegant melody tells the story of transformation and love, capturing the grace of swans gliding across a moonlit lake.

James Dunn – The Irish Rover arranged by Keveren

James Dunn brings us a taste of Irish folklore with The Irish Rover by Kevarin. This lively tune tells the tale of a magnificent ship and its wildly exaggerated adventures—from a massive crew to a cargo of dogs, pigs, and clocks. It's a fun and spirited nod to Ireland's rich tradition of musical storytelling.

Edward Dunn – Indian Pony Riders by Bastien

Edward Dunn takes us on a ride across wide open plains with Indian Pony Riders by Bastien. This piece uses a steady rhythm and galloping motion to capture the spirit of young riders on horseback, echoing the freedom and movement of life in the American West.

Sophia Cao – Austrian Impromptu by Schubert

Sophia Cao performs Austrian Impromptu by Franz Schubert, one of Austria's most celebrated composers. Impromptus are short, expressive piano pieces, and this one showcases Schubert's gift for melody and emotion, reflecting the charm and depth of early Romantic music.

Josefina Villegas – Polish Mazurka by Chopin

Josefina Villegas brings us to Poland with a Mazurka by Frédéric Chopin. Rooted in traditional Polish dance, the mazurka has a lively rhythm and strong national spirit. Chopin transformed it into a poetic form, full of subtle shifts and expressive detail.

Camille Halushak – Austrian Sonatina by Diabelli

Camille Halushak takes us to Austria with Austrian Sonatina by Anton Diabelli. Known for his elegant and accessible style, Diabelli wrote music that's both charming and clear. This sonatina offers a graceful glimpse into early nineteenth-century Viennese piano music.

Isabella Tosado-Diaz – Zombie by O'Riordan

Isabella Tosado -Diaz performs Zombie by Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer of the Irish band The Cranberries. Released in the 1990s, this powerful song blends haunting melody with strong emotion, written in response to real-world conflict and calling for peace.

Jane Caranto – Polish Prelude by Chopin

Jane Caranto performs a Prelude by Frédéric Chopin, one of Poland's most iconic composers. Chopin's preludes are short, expressive pieces that capture deep emotion in just a few moments—this one reflects the beauty and intensity of Romantic-era piano music.

Judy Caranto – Hungarian Dance of Gnomes by Liszt

Judy Caranto takes us to Hungary with Dance of Gnomes by Franz Liszt. Known for his dazzling piano works, Liszt adds a touch of mystery and mischief to this piece, with quick rhythms and unexpected turns that bring the playful world of gnomes to life.

Stephen Dimitri Haluschak – French Minstrels by Debussy

Stephen Dimitri Haluschak performs French Minstrels by Claude Debussy. Inspired by medieval traveling musicians, this piece blends playful rhythms and colorful harmonies in Debussy's unique Impressionist style, offering a lighthearted glimpse into a world of song and storytelling.

Joanne Caranto – Grand Polonaise Brillante by Chopin

We bring this evening's recital to a close with Joanne Caranto's performance of Chopin's Grande Polonaise Brillante. While it draws upon the spirit of the traditional Polish polonaise, this work transcends the dance floor, emerging as a luminous concert piece. With sweeping lyricism and virtuosic brilliance, Chopin infuses it with a noble pride and a radiant sense of national identity – a resplendent conclusion to our musical voyage.

Thank you for joining us for this evening's 7:30 recital. Through each performance, we've traveled across cultures, countries, and centuries—all through the language of music. We're proud of every student's hard work and growth, and we hope you leave feeling inspired by the creativity and dedication they've shared with us tonight.

Before we go, we'd like to thank the teachers whose students performed today. If you're here, please stand. Anna Habicht, Lauren Martinez, Diane Morrow. Your dedication means so much. Thank you.

We'd also like to give special thanks to Western Hills United Methodist Church for the generous use of their beautiful sanctuary—it's an honor to share music in such a welcoming and inspiring space.