

The Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Passchendaele

November 3, 2018

Musical selections with composers' connection to World War I

A Shropshire Lad

George Butterworth

This is a coming-of-age piece by Butterworth, who was a British soldier in World War II.

Le tombeau de Couperin

Maurice Ravel

Ravel, who was a stretcher carrier in the French military, composed this piece in four movements, each of which was written for a close personal friend who was killed in frontline action

Military March in B flat major

Erich Korngold

Korngold was enlisted in the Austrian army. He wrote this march as part of his dutes. After the war he went to Hollywood and became a major movie composer.

English Pastoral Impressions

Ernest Farrar

Farrar, an English composer, was a very young man when he wrote this piece. It was published by the largest publisher in England and Farrar was regarded as an "up and comer," says SSO principal conductor William Rowson. Sadly, he was killed in the war, his career nipped in the bud.

Fantasy on Scottish Melodies

Sir Ernest MacMillan

MacMillan, who was interned as a prisoner of war, wrote this music that speaks to his heritage. A Canadian, he was conductor of the Toronto Symphony for many years.

Nimrod Variations

Edward Elgar

First performed in 1899, Nimrold is one of the pieces played at commemorations in London, England, every Nov. 11 for those who have sacrificed their lives for their country. SSO principal conductor William Rowson describes it as "just a beautiful piece of music that puts us in place of really sincere introspection and remembrance."