

## Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #50

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Date: Friday, January 22, 2021, 02:48 PM PST

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### Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

In anticipation of the rain (and snow) that is coming our way, and which should be here by this evening, I thought this first selection would prepare us for the beauty that our local mountains will display in the next few days! I believe we will soon see lovely white snow very close by.

(Achille) Claude Debussy, French Impressionist composer wrote *Children's Corner* between 1906 and 1908 and dedicated the 6-movement suite to his daughter, Claude-Emma (known as "Chou-Chou"). Adored by her father, she was a lively and friendly little girl. Debussy finished the suite in 1908 when "Chou-Chou" was 3-years old. His dedication read: "A ma chère petite Chouchou, avec les tendres excuses de son Père pour ce qui va suivre." The English translation follows: "To my dear little Chouchou, with tender apologies from her father for what follows." The suite was published in 1908, and had its world premiere in Paris on December 18<sup>th</sup> of that year.

*The Snow is Dancing* is the 4<sup>th</sup> movement in this suite and can be heard here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mndn7ogRP6o>

Today's second selection is by Samuel Osmond Barber, *Adagio for Strings*, from the second movement of his String Quartet, Op. 11. Barber, born and raised in Pennsylvania, was an American composer of orchestral, opera, choral and piano music. This particular version has been arranged for cello only. I think you will be impressed, amazed and moved by the 278 cellists from 29 countries as they perform this piece for the COVID Cello Project.

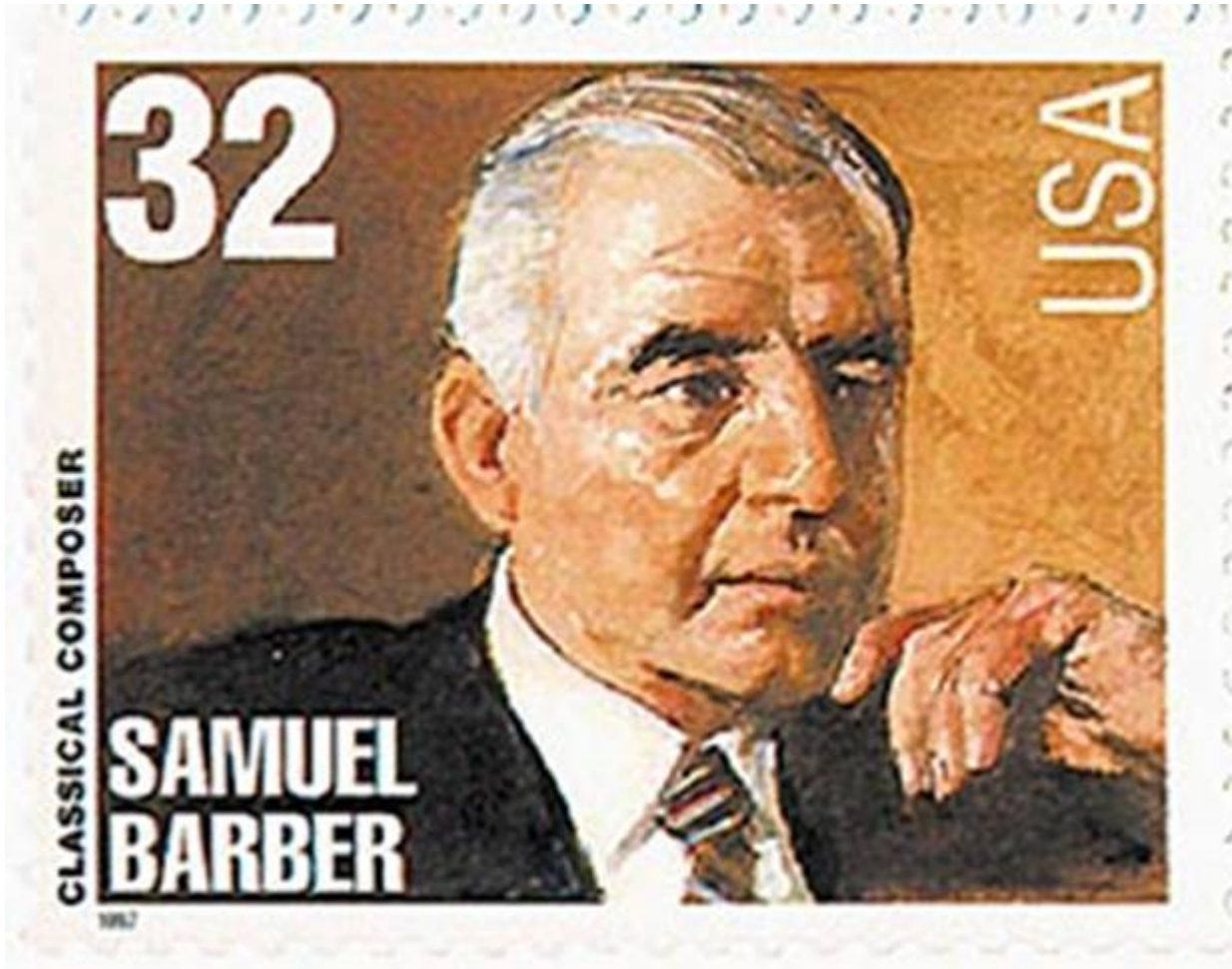
An interesting fact about Barber is that he became profoundly interested in music at an early age, studying the piano and composing his first piece at the age of 6. Despite his overwhelming interest in music, his family wanted him to become a typical extroverted, athletic American boy. In particular, they encouraged him to play football. However, Samuel Barber was in no way a typical boy, and at the age of nine he wrote to his mother:

"Dear Mother, I have written this to tell you my worrying secret. Now don't cry when you read it because it is neither yours nor my fault. I suppose I will have to tell it now without any nonsense. To begin with, I was not meant to be an athlete. I was meant to be a composer, and will be I'm sure. I'll ask you one more thing, don't ask me to go play football. Please! Sometimes, I've been worrying about this so much that it makes me mad (not very).

With gratitude to Barber's parents for allowing him to forego football, I think we can all agree that he was meant to be a composer, of the highest order, and that his passion and talent for music is well-displayed in this piece.

*Adagio for Strings*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ly61HpQ3mU>





It is my joy to stay connected with you each week. Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I miss you.

Warmest regards,

Abby

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