

Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #51

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Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

For all of you who read my email last week when I predicted snow on our local mountains, here you go! This photo is from the Orange County Register, taken earlier this week when the hills were blanketed with white beauty!

We really have the life, don't we? We can look to the north and enjoy winter views or drive a few short miles to the beach to see amber sunsets in January! This photo is of Crystal Cove Beach this month.

I hope you are all taking full advantage of the beautiful things that can be found in Orange County. 😊



Today's musical selection of great beauty is Maurice Ravel's, *Empress of the Pagodas* from his Mother Goose Suite (Mere l'Oye) composed in 1908. Many have said that Maurice Ravel saw the world through the eyes of a child. Never having children of his own, he frequently spent time with the children of his friends, reading to them and being enchanted by their innocence and thirst for learning. Ravel's dear friends, Jean and Mimi Godebski had two children, Cipa and Ida of whom Ravel was especially fond. He composed this suite as a four-hand piano composition for them to play together. Each of the suite's movements depict a character from the Mother Goose nursery rhymes. The characters represented in the suite are Sleeping Beauty, Beauty and the Beast, Tom Thumb, and the Empress of Pagodas. In 1911, Ravel reconstructed this work into an orchestral ballet score with fanfares and birdsongs.

To listen to Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas, follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3X34_qul

To hear the entire Mother Goose Suite for orchestra, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3YGf7_8RWA

I am so happy 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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