

## Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #59

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### Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

This is a week of celebrations! During Passover (March 27<sup>th</sup>-April 4<sup>th</sup>) to Easter (April 4<sup>th</sup>), people across the globe are visiting Synagogues and churches and spending time with family and friends that is meaningful and authentic! Today, I want to share two pieces with you that demonstrate the power of both these spiritual observances and wish those of you who are celebrating either holiday a blessed Passover or Happy Easter!

Based entirely on chants from the Eastern Orthodox church which express the liturgy of the church, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's **Russian Easter Festival Overture, Op. 36** (also called the Great Russian Easter Overture) is a purely instrumental work and one of the best classical pieces for Easter. He composed it between August 1887 and April 1888, and it was premiered in St. Petersburg in late December 1888.

Click here to listen as the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic (University School of Music) performs Russian Easter Festival Overture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oH8dS9gKPzw>

To commemorate Passover, Erich Wolfgang Korngold composed his **Passover Psalm, Op. 30** in 1941. Korngold was an Austrian-born composer and conductor of Jewish ancestry who is one of the most important and influential composers in the history of Hollywood. As an adult, he became a noted pianist and composer of classical music, and was the first composer of international fame to write Hollywood scores. Writing only two religious works, his Passover Psalm was meant for soprano, mixed choir, organ and orchestra.

To understand Passover Psalm best, follow along with the lyrics below which are based on Haggadah texts.

Let us praise, let us honor,

Let us sing praise to him, to him, who did wonders for our fathers and us, their children.

He broke open the prison, He led us out From slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy.

He broke open the prison, He led us out From grief to jubilation, from darkness to light.

Click here for Passover Psalm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cpvsi4TFto>



What a joy it is for me to stay connected with you each week! Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much we miss you.

Warm regards,  
Abby

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