

Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #45

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Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

Isn't it hard to believe that we have whizzed through Thanksgiving and are now only minutes away from Hanukkah and Christmas? Wow, for a very slow year, it is now accelerating at breakneck speed!

I thought I'd share a wide variety of pieces with you today. As I have heard from you throughout the months regarding your amazing and eclectic tastes, you have challenged me to listen to composers and performers that are new to me. While this first group is not new to me, they always enchant me. Their voices beautifully intertwine creating vocal harmonies, basslines, riffing, percussion and beatboxing, all without any instruments. **Pentatonix** is an American a cappella group from Arlington, Texas. Their pop-style arrangements are typically cover songs of Christmas and other well-known songs in the form of medleys. Check them out here:

- The Evolution of Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IExW80sXsHs>
- Little Drummer Boy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ_MGWio-vc
- Happy Now: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=446fgjNuhTQ>



Another very interesting composer of the last 1800's and early 1900's is **Sir Herbert Hamilton Harty**. He was an Irish composer, conductor, pianist and organist. After an early career as a church organist in his native Ireland, Harty moved to London at about age 20, soon becoming a well-known piano accompanist. Known as "the prince of accompanists" he also composed numerous pieces throughout his career.

- Enjoy his piece, Nymphs and Shepherds, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vkpgHECztE&list=PL3B5yPoFDFSI8I-k3Xoul8cGT8my2fFJo&index=1>



Lastly, **Howard Harold Hanson** who was born in October 1896 and composed until 1981, was an American composer, conductor, educator and champion of American classical music. He was the Director of the Eastman School of Music for 40 years and built it into an exceptionally high-quality school, providing many opportunities for the commissioning and performing of American classical pieces.

Very reminiscent of John Williams style, hear Howard Hanson's Symphony no. 2, Op. 30 "Romantic" (Alien): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD5pPNpbSME>



I hope you have a wonderful weekend! Until we see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much we miss you.

Warm regards,

Abby

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