

Ponchielli, Amilcare (1834-1886) – Dance of the Hours  
At 9 years of age, Ponchielli studied at the Milan Conservatory and wrote his first symphony by age 10. He later discovered his passion for opera. In 1874, he married opera soprano Teresina Brambilla, with whom he had a son named Annibale.

Kreisler, Fritz (1875-1962) - Praeludium and Allegro  
Kreisler was born in Vienna. At the age of 12, he won the "Premier Grand Prix de Rome" gold medal. The 40 other contestants were at least 20 years old. He served briefly in WWI in the Austrian Army before being honorably discharged after being wounded. At the outbreak of WWII, he moved permanently to the United States where he became a naturalized citizen.

Lehar, Franz (1870-1948) – Merry Widow Valse  
Lehar attended the Prague conservatory, where Antonin Dvorak advised him to focus on composition. Policy at the conservatory, however, pressured him to focus almost solely on performance, and he was largely self-taught as a composer. Lehar became most famous for his operetta, "The Merry Widow."

Joplin, Scott (1868-1917) – Maple Leaf Rag  
Joplin was an American composer and pianist. He was known as the "King of Ragtime." He wrote 44 ragtime pieces, 1 ballet, and 2 operas. He was born in Northeast, Texas to a family of railway laborers.

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We hope our presentation adds some light to your day. Our mission is to spread Truth and Love with everyone we meet. We love Emails and Letters. Write us if you would like - We would love to hear from you.

We also have CD's available, which include some of the Piano Selections we perform on this program, available for ten dollars. Just ask about them after the program. Thank you again for being part of today.

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# New Chapters

## with Bruce and Elijah Pratt

Piano and Violin Selections

Thank you for attending today's concert. Elijah and I have been working very hard on a great many pieces which we will be performing over the next several years. We have included a few notes about the composers for your enjoyment. It is a great joy for us to share our love and passion for music with you. Our family has entered into a new chapter and we are moving forward with enthusiasm into new projects and programs which we are excited to share with you; Program 2018 - Chapter One....

Bach, Carl Phillip Emmaunel (1714-1788) - Solfeggietto  
Bach was hired by King Frederick of Prussia to be "on the ready" for music for 28 years. He penned the book "Essay on the True Art of Playing Keyboard Instruments," which is still available today.

Antonin, Dvorak (1841-1904) – Humoresque  
Dvorak was a Czech composer whose father pressed him to carry on the family business as a butcher/innkeeper. Instead at age 16, he left for Prague and attracted the attentions of Brahms, Liszt, and Smetana, who helped him become published. He became so successful that eventually he came to the United States, where he was one of the first to appreciate the works of Stephen Foster.

Brahms, Johannes (1833-1897) – Valse in Ab  
Brahms was a German composer who, early on, helped his family financially by playing at taverns and theaters. Both Robert and Clara Schuman later took Brahms under their wing and did a great deal to further his career. Brahms and Clara became very good friends.

Mussorgsky, Modest Petrovitch (1839-1881) – Hopak  
Modest was a member of the group known as the "Russian Five," which also included Cesar Cui, Aleksanr Borodin, Mily Balakirev, and Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov. He had little musical training other than a few piano lessons. It is said that no other composer with so little musical education influenced so many others.

Scarlatti, Domenico (1685-1757) – Sonata Dm  
Scarlatti was born the same year as Bach and Handel. He wrote over 600 sonatas for the harpsichord. In 1709, he had a contest with Handel on the organ and harpsichord. After Handel "won" on the organ, and Scarlatti on the harpsichord, the two became life-long friends.

Burgmuller, Johann (1806-1874) – Op. 299 No. 12  
Burgmuller was a German pianist and composer whose father and brother were also musicians. He composed many piano pieces for the salon, etudes for children, 2 ballets, and a number of opuses.

Chopin, Frederick (1810-1849) – Valse in Am  
Considered the Polish "poet of the piano." Chopin was 7 when he played a difficult concerto at a recital, and only 15 when he first published a rondo. At 20, he left Poland, never to return. He was most successful in Paris.

Mendelssohn, Felix (1809-1847) – Scherzo Em  
Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg, Germany, and was a composer, pianist, and conductor of the Romantic Period who had a great love of his native country. His second favorite place was England and Scotland, to which he dedicated several pieces. He helped to lead a revival of J.S. Bach's music, and helped to form the Bach Society to publish Bach's complete works.

Handel, George Frederick (1685-1759) – Sonata in Am  
Handel was born in Germany, the same year as Bach. His father was a barber/surgeon who hoped Handel would study law, but at age 7 was noticed by the duke of the province for his skills on the organ. By 11, he was composing sonatas and Church services. From Church services, before reaching age 20, he turned to opera. He travelled to Italy and became known as a great composer and performer. In 1741, he composed "Messiah" in 23 days.

Liszt, Franz (1811-1886) – Etude Dm Op.1 No.4  
Liszt was Born in Hungry where, by age 9, he was seen as such a virtuoso, he was sponsored to study in Vienna. There, he studied with Czerny and was praised by Schubert and Beethoven. He was influenced by writer Victor Hugo, composers Chopin and Berlioz, and violinist Paganini. Although early on he contemplated becoming a priest, Liszt stuck with music, very successfully. He did, however, use his music not just for his own profit, but also for any worthy cause. For example, he might have a concert to raise money for towns harmed in a flood. Increasingly religious in later life, in 1865, he was accepted into a small religious order and was known to them as "Abbe Liszt" for his remaining years.