# Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

## *75th Anniversary Celebration*

Beethoven's *Symphony no. 6, "Pastoral"*
Gould's *Stephen Foster Gallery*
Hagen's *Songbook*

Beethoven's Sixth Symphony is an early example of Program Music. While Beethoven was writing this piece the working title was "Recollections of Country Life." The piece was begun in 1802, but was not completed until 1806 when it was presented at a mammoth 4 hour long concert consisting entirely of Beethoven premieres. On that day, both symphonies 5 and 6 were first performed, as well as the Choral Fantasy, portions of his Mass in C, the fourth Piano Concerto, and numerous smaller pieces for piano and voice.

At the concert you just attended, the Buffalo Philharmonic gave a world premiere of their own- of Daron Hagen's Songbook for Violin and Orchestra, quoted themes from American hymns and ballads. Morton Gould's Stephen Foster Gallery, consists entirely of American Folk Songs, arranged for the orchestra. Finally, Beethoven's Symphony no. 6, is representative of country life, and uses melodies that are reminiscent of those that a farmer living in Germany in the 1800s would know.

In groups, please choose either the Gould or the Hagen piece and comment on how the composer used American folk tunes as a basis for the piece.

> -If you choose the Gould, also comment on the use of the Camptown Races theme in the piece. Do you hear it more than once?
> -If you choose the Hagen, what are your thoughts about the piece being a Violin Concerto- the solo violin being used? Did you recognize any of the themes?

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*Pastoral* means "relating to the countryside." Beethoven's piece is written in 5 movements, and depicts a day in the life of the country.

If you don't remember the piece, feel free to watch the YouTube videos of Carlos Kleiber conducting the Bavarian State Orchestra as a reminder! If the links are broken, search ***Beethoven Symphony No 6 F major Carlos Kleiber live***

Movement I: Allegro ma non troppo [fast, but not overly so] *Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arrival in the country*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bbinrDGNJw
Movement II: Andante molto [at a walking tempo] *Scene at the brook*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBV696jEtqY [part 1]
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0C-GQl0Mq8 [part 2]
Movement III: Allegro [Fast] *Happy gathering of country folk*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmcmbFDghK4
Movement IV: Allegro [Fast] *Thunderstorm*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD0dXwpAHE0
Movement V: Allegretto [moderately fast] *Shepards song, Cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTknBpjp7Pw

In a group, pick one movement and listen to the recording on YouTube. Describe a few ideas on how Beethoven recreates the scene that is given in the title of the movement. You could comment on instruments used, dynamic or volume level, melody, or harmony. Also, comment on what YOU think that music sounds like. Do you agree with Beethoven's description, or do you envision something else while you listen?

NOTE: All activities and worksheets for the Friday Morning concerts were designed by music students from SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Potsdam as part of a project to engage older students in classical music. Thank you Michelle Fecio, Matthew Marco and Kelcie Hanaka.