



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Gershwin Festival Classics – At the Concert

Before the concert begins, read over the questions presented here and keep them in mind while listening to the pieces.

This Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra concert is different from many others that are presented in the season. It features works by three American composers; Philip Rothman (Buffalo native), William Schuman, and of course, George Gershwin. All three have strong ties to New York City and composed their works in the 20th century.

1. Compare the music you hear by Rothman, Schuman, and Gershwin with other classical music you have heard. What is similar about it and what is different? How does the influence of other forms of American music make the music of this program different from other music by European composers like Beethoven?

2. Compare Rothman's Arc of Visibility (which was written in the past 10 years) with Gershwin's music (written in the early 1900's). How do you think the different times they were written in affect differences and similarities in the music? Do you hear any influence of Gershwin's style in Rothman's piece?

3. NYC has long been a musical and artistic inspiration for many. Do you think the three composers were influenced by their close proximity and relationship with New York City? Why or why not? How does it show in their music?
