

# NOTES on the Program

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## J.S BACH

### Gigue in G Major, French Suite No. 5

Bach wrote three sets of dance suites with six suites in each set, i.e.: the English Suites, Partitas, and French Suites. The French Suites were written in between 1717-1725. French Suite No. 5 consists of seven movements, and Gigue or Jig, a dance of Irish/English origins, serves as the suite's finale.

The subject is first heard in soprano voice, then alto, and finally the bass. In the second half of the piece, the subject is inverted and begins with the bass first. The piece is a lively and swing dance, picturing children playing happily in the playground. It is rapid and brilliant.

## FREDERIC CHOPIN

### Mazurka Op. 7 No. 1 in B Flat Major



Originated in the Polish province of Mazovia, the Mazurka began to spread outside Poland in the seventeenth century. Not all Chopin's mazurka can be danced with, but the B Flat Major is one of few Mazurkas that was easily related to dance movement.

The main theme opens with a lively character, like a snobbish prince dancing upward, swinging, and swaggering on the dance floor, in a quite brisk tempo.

It occasionally emphasizes on the second beat and in the second half of a minute, the dance tends to emphasis on the first beat before repeating to the main theme. The second theme starts with a mysterious character and an exotic atmosphere and closes with a return of the main theme.

## JACQUES IBERT

### Le petit âne blanc (The Little White Donkey)

In 1922, Jacques Ibert, a French composer, wrote ten pieces in his suite called *Histoires*, where The Little White Donkey is the second piece. It was later orchestrated and is known for its staccato rhythm.

The inspiration comes from a trip that Ibert took to northern Africa where he met a little white donkey in Tunisia. The "monotonous step" of the little donkey and its unpredictable stopping are represented through the steady staccato bass on the black keys.

