

Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra
Listening Guide for the concerts on
November 18 & 20, 2011
BEYOND the BATTLEFIELD

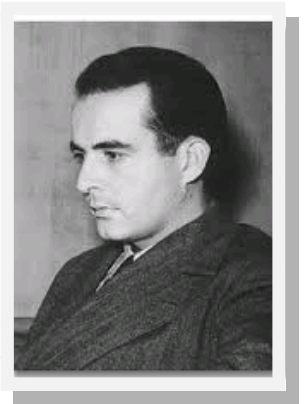
Frank Bridge: Lament for strings



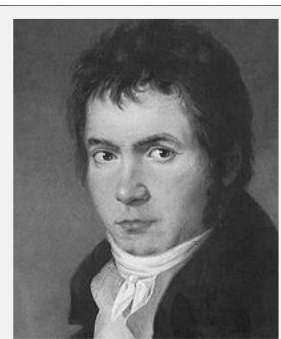
Who was Bridge? Frank Bridge, (26 February 1879 – 10 January 1941) was an English composer and violist. He played the viola in a number of string quartets and conducted, before devoting himself to composition. He privately tutored a number of pupils, most famously Benjamin Britten. One of his most characteristic harmonies is the Bridge chord, for instance C minor and D major sounding at the same time. **Lament:** This piece was written for string orchestra in 1915, in memory of the victims from the sinking of the *Lusitania*. The ship was sunk by a German torpedo and this event contributed to the United States entering into WWI.

Samuel Barber: Violin Concerto

Who was Barber? Samuel Osborne Barber II (March 9, 1910 – January 23, 1981) was an American composer of orchestral, opera, choral, and piano music. He also composed oratorios, chamber music and songs. In addition to composing, Barber was active in organizations that sought to help musicians and music by influencing the successful campaign of composers against ASCAP, helping composers increase the share of royalties they receive from their compositions. **Violin Concerto:** Barber was commissioned to write this concerto for violinist Iso Briselli, who graduated from Curtis Institute the same year as Barber. Barber wrote the first two movements in Switzerland the summer of 1939 and delivered the finale movement in late November. However, Briselli and his teacher Albert Meiff, were not happy with the results and refused to premier it. It was officially premiered by Eugene Ormandy, in a pair of performances by Albert Spalding with the Philadelphia Orchestra in the Academy of Music on February 7, 1941.



Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 3 *Eroica*



Who was Beethoven? Ludwig van Beethoven (baptized 17 December 1770-26 March 1827) was born in Bonn, Germany. His father recognized his musical talent early in his life and made him practice 8 hours a day beginning at age four. Beethoven played the organ, piano, and viola. He began composing in his late teens and is known for his dramatic music. Although he composed many works, it took him a lot of time to write each one, as he was very meticulous and careful. Unfortunately, he began to go deaf in his thirties and as his deafness increased, he closed himself off from the world. However, he was able to use his "inner ear" and went on to compose some of his greatest works when he was completely deaf. **Symphony No. 3:** also known as the *Eroica* (Italian for "heroic"), is a landmark musical work marking the full arrival of the composer's "middle-period," a series of unprecedented large scale works of emotional depth and structural rigor. Beethoven had originally conceived of dedicating the symphony to Napoleon Bonaparte. But when Napoleon proclaimed himself Emperor of the French in May 1804, Beethoven became disgusted and went to the table where the completed score lay, took hold of the title-page and tore it up in rage.