

NJRO

Report of January 10, 2010

No violins or violas! But we played Adagio for Strings with celli, bass and stalwart woodwinds covering the upper string parts. Talk about "can do!"

Report of January 31, 2010

Today we had more upper strings: Herb Steiner and Jennifer Seligman were our first violins; Jennifer had to leave early, but Herb handily defended the first violin stronghold. Seconds David Crowell and Dan Daniels were second to none. Yours truly got to play viola, and celli were Ruth Lepp, Bill Medeiros, and glad to see Sibylle Wallace is getting our emails! Bob Whiteley covered his bass, and woodwinds were Laura Papparatto, Aaron Abramovitz on clarinet, Steve Lepp on oboe, Alice Marcus on oboe-eng.horn and her friend (oh dear, I've forgotten her name!) on flute. Evan Schwartzman provided piano support and of course there was Maestro Culbertson. Also glad to see Sam Papparatto and that he's recovering well from gall bladder surgery.

Music du jour was Mozart's Symphony No. 39, Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1, the "Classical" and for "dessert" we encored Dvorak's Bagatelles, Op. 47, No. 1 (music provided by Steve Lepp).



Symphony No. 39 was one of Mozart's last three ever written (39, 40, and 41), which according to Wikipedia, were composed in rapid succession over the summer of 1788. There is no certainty of the premier date, and it may have not been performed in Mozart's lifetime. The trio movement is a landler (where's that damn umlaut key) featuring a clarinet solo. I remember first learning this tune as a song in grade school.

Prokofiev dubbed his Symphony No. 1 the "Classical Symphony" because his plan was to emulate Haydn, although there are no quotes from Haydn in the piece. Prokofiev conducted its 1918 premier in what was then Petrograd. The fourteen minute symphony has become one of Prokofiev's most popular works, with its themes used as television background music. --- Wikipedia

I couldn't find too much history of the Dvorak Bagatelles (someone help me out here?) but You Tube seems to be in love with them and offers various and sundry videos (some at brisk tempos!)