

## Joy and Celebration

Module 19 of *Music: Under the Hood*

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## Outline

- Brief biography of Leoš Janáček
- Fanfare and Finale from *Sinfonietta*

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## Biography


- Leoš Janáček, 1854-1928
  - Born in Moravia to a poor family
  - Taken in and educated at St Thomas Abbey, Brno
    - Same church where geneticist Gregor Mendel was abbot.
  - Studied piano and organ
  - Wrote first compositions as a teenager.



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      - A rhapsody based on Nikolai Gogol's novel.
      - Performed by PSO, 2013.
    - Wrote *Sinfonietta*, a monumental orchestral work, at age 72.
      - Now his most acclaimed work.
      - Also performed by PSO, 2018



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    - For large orchestra and expanded brass section.
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    - It works. The Fanfare is irresistible.
    - One can't get enough if it.
    - The Fanfare occupies the first movement.
    - It returns at the end of the Finale, with great fanfare!



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## Sinfonietta

- Has a cult following in Japan
  - Featured in Haruki Murakami's *1Q84*
    - 900-page novel in which the *Sinfonietta* plays a central role.
    - Translated into 50 languages.
    - Recording of *Sinfonietta* sold 6000 copies in first 20 years.
    - When *1Q84* was released, it sold 6000 copies in one week.



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## Sinfonietta

- Why does it work?
  - Not sure.
  - Let's just enjoy the Fanfare and Finale.
    - [Audio file, Fanfare \(first movement\)](#)
    - [Audio file, Finale \(Fanfare returns at 4:50\)](#)



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