## **Joy and Celebration**

Module 19 of Music: Under the Hood

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> Osher Course October 2018

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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
      - Abbey, Brno

         Same church where geneticist Gregor Mendel was abbot.
    - Studied piano and organ
    - Wrote first compositions as a teenager.



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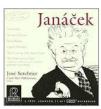
         Performed by PSO, 2013.
    - Wrote Sinfonietta, a monumental orchestral work, at age 72.
      - Now his most acclaimed work.
      - Also performed by PSO, 2018



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#### Sinfonietta

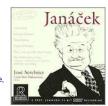
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#### Sinfonietta

- Written for an athletic festival in Prague, 1926
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    - Hard to see how this could be taken seriously?
    - 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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