

Joy and Celebration

Module 19 of *Music: Under the Hood*

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Osher Course
August 2017

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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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 - Recently performed by Pittsburgh Symphony.



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 - Recently performed by Pittsburgh Symphony.
 - Wrote *Sinfonietta*, a monumental orchestral work, at age 72.
 - Now his most acclaimed work.



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 - Inspired by military bands
 - 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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