

## FRANZ VON SUPPE

### LIGHT CAVALRY

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Franz von Suppé (1819-1895), also known as Francesco Suppé Demelli, was an Austrian composer and conductor from the Kingdom of Dalmatia, the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now part of Croatia).

He is known for his operettas, being a pioneer of the Austrian operetta genre. The operetta “Light Cavalry – Overture” introduced here is beautiful sparkling in every detail of the organizations. At the same time exudes a monumental contrast of strength with love and pride. Original work set in an Austrian village in the 19th century, where there are many erotic conspiracy and the discovery of the father-daughter relationship accompanied by the arrival of a regiment of Hussars. In 1934, he rewrote the operetta completely.

While much of the operetta remains relatively obscure, “Light Cavalry Overture” is one of Suppé’s best-known works. Music from the operetta was used as the theme of the 1935 film of the same name.

## PIETRO MASCAGNI

### INTERMEZZO from Opera “Cavalleria Rusticana”

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Cavalleria Rusticana is a one-act opera by Italian composer Pietro Mascagni. The lyricists for that work were Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci. Both adapted from a play and short story by Giovanni Verga. This is a very verismo opera. The opera was first performed on May 17, 1890 at the Teatro Costanzi of Rome. This opera won Mascagni first place in a competition sponsored by Sonzono Publishing that year, making him internationally famous. In just 40 years, the work was performed 13,000 times.

The work recreates the context of rural life on the Sicily Island (Italy) in the 19th century. “Cavalleria Rusticana” presents a short story, condensed but full of drama. The characters in this musical portray the extreme internal conflicts surrounding sacrifice, betrayal, and payment. The tragedy was conveyed by Pietro Mascagni to the audience through standard melodies, lyrics and vocal techniques.

# MAURICE RAVEL

## BOLERO

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Boléro by Maurice Ravel was originally a ballet opera with the participation of a symphony orchestra. This is what the author considers to be the «ballet de caractère espagnol» (ballet with Spanish touches), the music of which is composed by Ravel inspired by the Andalusian bolero, the dance is choreographed by Bronislava Nijinska. The work, composed between July and October 1928, was first performed on November 22 of the same year, at the Opéra Garnier, Paris.

The premiere was acclaimed by a shouting, stamping, cheering audience in the midst of which a woman was heard screaming: "Au fou, au fou!" ("The madman! The madman!"). When Ravel was told of this, he reportedly replied: "That lady... she understood.". Immediately after a few forums, the author was faked and greatly appreciated by art critics, and a few months after it was transmitted in many countries around the world.

Bolero's music was released independently, separate from the dance, first performed at Carnegie Hall in New York on November 14, 1929, by the New York Philharmonic Modern Orchestra under the direction of Arturo Toscanini. In France, the first performance of Boléro's music at a concert took place at Salle Gaveau on 11 January 1930 by Concerts-Lamoureux, Albert Wolff conducted by Ravel himself. The musical detachment from the ballet freed the piece from the constraints of ballet performance, quickly making Ravel one of the most famous musicians in the world at the time. Yet although Ravel considered Boléro one of his least important works, it has always been his most popular.

## GEORGES BIZET

### PRELUDE from Opera “Carmen”

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Georges Bizet’s full name is Alexandre César Léopold Bizet Born in 1838, died in 1875. He is a famous French composer and pianist who is known for the famous opera Carmen, the pinnacle of the French realism opera.

The story is written in the foreground in Sevilla, Spain, circa 1830 and concerns Carmen, a beautiful gypsy woman with a fiery temper. Free in love, she seduces Corporal Don José, an inexperienced soldier. Their system causes him to ignore his old love, rebel against the commander and join a smuggling group. He gets jealous when she leaves him to shoot and asks bullfighter Escamillo to make him kill Carmen.

The foreboding opening of the Prélude shows the fatalistic drama that cements the story together in Carmen. The deep tones from the cellos and basses add to the sheer drama of this opening. The thuds from the timpani and bass drum also add to this mysterious atmosphere, adding tension and a sense of foreboding.

Although short in duration, the melodic content of Carmen Suite No.1 makes it perhaps the more popular of the two suites. Each movement has a memorable melody, which does make you wonder why it was so unpopular when it was first premiered!

## BEDRICH SMETANA

### DIE MOLDAU

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The Moldau, Czech Vltava, symphonic poem by Bohemian composer Bedřich Smetana that evokes the flow of the Vltava River or in German is the Moldau. From its source in the mountains of the Bohemian Forest, through the Czech countryside, to the city of Prague. A devoutly patriotic work, The Moldau captures in music Smetana's love of his homeland. Completed in 1874 and first performed the following year, the piece constitutes the second movement of a six-movement suite, *Má vlast* (My Country), which premiered in its entirety in Prague on November 5, 1882.

*Má vlast* ultimately became Smetana's most enduring composition, and of its movements, the second, The Moldau, has remained the most popular. The movement starts with light, rippling figures that represent the emergence of the Moldau River as two mountain springs, one warm and one cold. Water from the springs then combines to become a mighty river, symbolized by a thickly orchestrated, stately theme that recurs periodically throughout the remainder of the work.

## JOE HISAISHI

### A TOWN WITH AN OCEAN VIEW from “Kiki’s Delivery Service”

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A town with an ocean view is a song without lyrics in the Japanese cartoon Kiki’s delivery service (released in 1989) composed by Joe Hisaishi. Kiki’s Delivery Service made by Studio Ghibli and written, produced and directed by Miyazaki Hayao. The film is adapted from the novel of the same name by Kadono Eiko. The story revolves around a young witch named Kiki. The girl moves to a new city and uses her ability to fly for a living. According to Miyazaki, the film specifically depicts the gulf between independence and dependence among teenage girls in Japan.

Kiki’s Delivery Service premiered in Japan on July 29, 1989, and won the Animage Anime Grand Prix. It was the highest-grossing Japanese film of 1989 with over 2 million spectators. Musician-songwriter Hisaishi Joe, real name Fujisawa Mamoru born December 6, 1950, is the composer of more than 100 soundtracks for films and other solo works, included in albums Released from 1981 onwards. With an “old” animated film produced in the late 80’s like Kiki’s Delivery Service, good background music is a factor that impresses young audiences forever. The pure and melodious as the image of the witch girl Kiki - the main character in the movie, the song has many different versions from piano, violin or percussion, bringing a sense of joy and peace to the audience.

## JOE HISAISHI

### ONE SUMMER'S DAY from "Spirited Away"

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Spirited Away is a 2001 Japanese animated film with the theme of teenage and fantasy premiered by Miyazaki Hayao as director and writer. The film's plot tells the story of Ogino Chihiro (Hiiragi), a 10-year-old girl who is always bored; While moving to a new home, she gets lost in the spirit world of Japanese Shinto folk beliefs. After her parents were turned into pigs by the witch Yubaba (Natsuki), Chihiro was forced to work at Yubaba's public bath to find a way to free her parents and herself and return to the human world.

The film's soundtrack was composed and performed by Hisaishi Joe - Miyazaki's longtime collaborator, and performed by the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. Hisaishi's soundtrack won trophies at the 56th Mainichi Film Competition Awards for Best Music, Best Music Award in the Motion Picture Category at the Tokyo International Anime Anime Trade Fair Fair in 2001 and Animated Album of the Year category at the 16th Japan Golden Disc Awards.

## JOE HISAISHI

### SANPO from “My Neighbor Totoro”

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My Neighbor Totoro is a Japanese animated film produced by Ghibli in 1988, written and directed by the king of Japanese animation Miyazaki Hayao. “My Neighbor Totoro” can be considered as one of Hayao Miyazaki’s first major cartoons, this work is playful, pure, suitable for all ages. It opened the door to a series of hand-drawn animations that followed.

This is the film that has made the image of the cartoon character Totoro more widely known to the public over the past few decades. The film tells a human story about how children explore the world through their rich imagination. Totoro has accompanied the children, and is a place where they can entrust their beliefs, dreams and hopes. It’s rare to find a character that both adults and children love, so it’s not surprising that Totoro has become an anime monument that no other character can beat.

The story begins when the family of two sisters Satsuki and Mei Kusakabe move to a peaceful countryside. While walking in the forest near her house, Mei happened to meet Totoro, a cute big-bellied beast and was dubbed the forest god here. From there, the magical adventure of the two little girls and Totoro officially begins.

Joe Hisaishi is the composer of more than 100 soundtracks for films and other solo works, on albums released from 1981 onwards. The compositions have both the breath of minimalist (an experimental music genre), also have the style of electronic music, European classical music and Japanese folk music. As one of the composers with the greatest dedication to animated films, Hisaishi worked tirelessly to write music in the 80’s and 90’s.

## VAN KY

### BAI CA HY VONG

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Bai Ca Hy Vong (Song of Hope) is the name of a song composed by musician Van Ky in 1958. This is the most famous composition and also the most popular one among more than 400 of his works. During the war against the American invasion, this song has contributed to maintaining and encouraging the spirit of many revolutionary cadres and soldiers. When composing music in 1958, the musician just turned 30 years old with a pure heart, full of enthusiasm. In the midst of war bombs, he painted a poetic picture with ingenious metaphors and dots. The image of birds flying in the spring breeze to the South has created an emotional connection between the North and South, and sowed hope for a bright future.

The song has only eight lines, but it goes into people's hearts thanks to the beautiful melody and lyrics. Many listeners believe that "flying birds" implies praising love and loyalty during wartime. However, the musician once said: "When composing, I put myself in a different position, not simply an ordinary love, a couple's love, but a spontaneous emotion that pops up, turning my thoughts towards to the great and beautiful things of the nation that even I myself could not imagine".

## VAN CAO

### MUA XUAN DAU TIEN

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Mua Xuan Dau Tien (The First Spring) is a song by musician Van Cao composed on the occasion of the New Year (1976). This is his first song composed and popularized, after 20 years since the last time Van Cao announced his retirement, giving up his composing career and was considered his last work.

“The First Spring” was born with a gentle, gentle waltz melody that makes people’s hearts become relaxed, contemplative, vibrates with sincere and simple emotions about the first independent spring of the country, of the nation.

Talking about spring, for Van Cao, it is an extremely idyllic spring. A picture of purity, clarity, bold nature of the Vietnamese countryside with familiar and close sounds. It was not until nearly twenty years later, when musician Van Cao died, that “The First Spring” was released to the public. People witnessed the intense spread of this song as if nothing could be resisted.

## VIETNAMESE FOLK SONG / Arranged by: Do Hong Quan

### TRONG COM

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Trong Com (The Rice Drum) is the only song about a traditional musical instrument of the Vietnamese nation, often seen in spring festivals.

Like the monochord, bamboo flute... The Rice Drum has contributed to the identity of Vietnamese traditional musical instruments. Many times the magical sounds emanating from these simple musical instruments captivated friends around the world as well as Vietnamese living abroad earnestly remembering their roots every time the New Year arrives. Because of the uniqueness of the wet rice civilization, the rice drum has many national meanings. The Rice Drum with traditional clothes is the pride of Vietnamese people.