



The Evolution of the Nocturne

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PURPOSE

To trace the development of the nocturne genre to support my own performance of of these particular nocturnes: Field's Nocturne No. 2 in C Minor, Chopin's Nocturne in C Minor, Debussy's Nocturne, Poulenc's Nocturne No. 7, and Poulenc's Nocturne No. 8.

RATIONALE

My research serves as support work for my performances.

RELATIONSHIP TO HONORS THEME

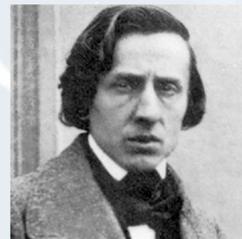
Being human is profound because we can recount our own experiences, and we can relate to other people's experiences. For a performer, music is about retelling a story. Music is a direct expression of the profound nature of the human experience.

METHODS AND BACKGROUND

My methods were research and practice. I researched the nocturne genre and I researched the specific pieces I needed to perform. Then, I incorporated the suggestions from performance the research into the pieces that I played.



John Field
1782-1837



Frédéric Chopin
1810-1849



Claude Debussy
1862-1918



Francis Poulenc
1899-1963

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

After my research, I have a more complete understanding of these composers and their pasts. I have a better idea of the composer's intentions for the performer. The research I conducted on the particular pieces has also helped me to understand each piece in the greater scheme of the development of the nocturne genre. There were many small but important aspects pertaining to performance that I hadn't known before studying the pieces. My research has helped me to improve things on a practical level and to play the pieces in a way that is closer to the way that the composer intended.