

The program features two of Charles Ives' most regarded works, both vividly capture formative times and ideas in Ives' life. Although experimental, improvisational at points, and highly complex, they are also richly atmospheric.

Piano Sonata No. 2 (Concord)

Ives said the work was his "impression of the spirit of transcendentalism that is associated in the minds of many with Concord, Massachusetts of over a half century ago. This is undertaken in impressionistic pictures of Emerson and Thoreau, a sketch of the Alcotts, and a scherzo supposed to reflect a lighter quality which is often found in the fantastic side of Hawthorne." *Ives, Charles (1970). Boatwright, Howard (ed.). Essays Before a Sonata, The Majority, and Other Writings. Norton. pp. xxv.*

Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano

In Ives own words (from Kirkpatrick's "Comparison of Sources"):

...The Trio was, in a general way . . . a reflection or impression of . . . college days on the Campus, now 50 years ago. The first movement recalled a rather short but serious talk, to those on the Yale fence, by an old professor of Philosophy; the second, the games and antics by the students . . . on a Holiday afternoon; and some of the tunes and songs of those days were . . . suggested in this movement, sometimes in a rough way. The last movement was partly a remembrance of a Sunday Service on the Campus . . . which ended near the "Rock of Ages."

Ives quotes familiar American folk songs throughout, but particularly in the second movement where a careful listener can discover snatches of the following:

"A Band of Brothers in DKE"
"The Campbells Are Comin"
"Dixie's Land - Few Days"
"Marching Through Georgia"
"My Old Kentucky Home"
"Pig Town Fling"
"Sweet By and By"
"Ta-ra-ra-Boom-de-ay"

Music notes by Jennifer Laursen