

# Music is for the Birds

## Compositions & Notes

- Ralph Vaughan Williams - *The Lark Ascending*
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4NMf2PO\\_mQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4NMf2PO_mQ)
  - **Performed by:** Soloist, Janine Jansen
  - **Inspired by:** Skylark (Composed after a piece by George Meredith praising the lark-The Lark Ascending)
  - **Listen for it:** Skylark vocalization is imitated throughout the entire piece. It is most obvious in the main melodic theme of the composition.
- Dvořák – *The American*
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV-kbAydckw>
  - **Performed by:** Prazak Quartet
  - **Inspired by:** Scarlet Tanager
  - **Listen for it:** Scarlet Tanager vocalization is imitated throughout the entire piece. It is most obvious in the main melodic theme of the composition.
- Frederick Delius - *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZF1xUrD\\_Fg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZF1xUrD_Fg)
  - **Performed by:** Orquestra Clássica do Centro
  - **Inspired by:** Cuckoo
  - **Listen for it:** Imitations are present throughout the piece.
- Ottorino Respighi - *Pini di Roma* (Pines of Rome): *I pini del Gianicolo* (The Janiculum)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4k45YTpnx4>
  - **Performed by:** Radio Sinfonie Orchester Stuttgart SWR
  - **Inspired by:** Nightingale
  - **Listen for it:** A recording of a nightingale can be heard toward the end of the movement. Listen closely to the referenced performance at 6:05 through the end.
- Ottorino Respighi – *Gli Uccelli* (The Birds): *La gallina* (The hen),
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X46k-DlrXa4>
  - **Performed by:** Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Orchestra
  - **Inspired by:** Hen
  - **Listen for it:** The chaotic clucking of a hen is imitated throughout the piece.
- Einojuhani Rautavaara - *Cantus Arcticus: Swans Migrating*
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYKM7H5cHhg>
  - **Inspired by:** Whooper Swans
  - **Listen for it:** A recording of whooper swans can be heard at the beginning of the piece.
- Clement Janequin - *Le Chant des Oyseaux*
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAp4d2xzGn4>
  - **Performed by:** Musica Intima
  - **Inspired by:** All Birds
  - **Listen for it:** Bird imitations can be heard throughout the piece. Clear imitations can be found at 3:45 and 4:40 of the referenced performance.

- Jarbas Agnelli -- *Birds on the Wires*
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpdwM\\_dkWi8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpdwM_dkWi8)  
**Inspired by:** Birds on wires
  - **Listen for it:** The piece was written after the arrangement of birds sitting on a wires that appeared to be on a musical staff. The video illustrates this more clearly.
- Olivier Messiaen – *Le Merle Noir*
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkt83r\\_OYhc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkt83r_OYhc)
  - **Performed by:** Denis Bouriakov
  - **Inspired by:** Blackbird
  - **Listen for it:** The melodically strained vocalizations of the blackbird are evident throughout flute part of the piece.
- Bernie Krause
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTbA-mxo858>
  - The referenced video is a clip of Bernie Krause delivering a TED talk about his work with soundscapes. He speaks specifically about his observations at Lincoln Meadow. Hear his thoughts on these observations and his recordings of Lincoln Meadow at 4:16 of the referenced video.

Other works mentioned in Music is for the Birds presentation:

- Jonathan Harvey  
*Bird Concerto with Pianosong*
- Edward Elgar  
*Op. 53, No. 4, Owls*
- Prokofiev  
*Peter and the Wolf*
- Handel  
*Organ Concerto, Cuckoo & the Nightingale*
- Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber  
*Sonata Representativa in A major*
- Maurice Ravel  
*Daphnis et Chloe*
- Olivier Messiaen  
*Quartet For the End of Time*  
*Le merle noir*  
*Réveil des oiseaux*  
*Catalogue d'oiseaux*  
*La fauvette des jardins*  
*Des canyons aux étoiles*