

Obviously biased towards the instruments I know how to play:

Top Picks

Dvorak American Quartet

Any Chopin Nocturne for piano (recommend No. 2 to start)

Rachmaninov Concerto No. 2 (all movements are fantastico, especially by Evgeny Kissin)

Carmen Fantasie Suite by Franz Waxman (listen to Heifetz play it)

Other Really Good Stuff

String Quartet No. 1 "From My Life" (1st and 3rd mvt) by Bedrich Smetana

Rachmaninov Concerto No. 3

Elgar Cello Concerto (1st mvt, best played by Jacqueline du Pre)

Dvorak Cello Concerto

Saint-Saens Cello Concerto

Adagio for Spartacus and Phrygia by Aram Khachaturian (orchestral version)

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1

Any Chopin Mazurka for piano

Stamitz Viola Concerto

Glinka Viola Sonata

Franck Violin Sonata (1st mvt)

Sibelius Violin Concerto

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto

Saint-Saens Violin Concerto No. 3

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens

Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor

Dvorak Romance for Violin

Ysaye Ballade for Violin

Enigma Variations "Nimrod" by Elgar

Mendelssohn Octet