

# PROGRAM NOTES



As you listen to this piece you're probably wondering what happened to me. In all honesty, I may as well be dead. My art, my soul, my kindness has all vanished from me in these hard times.

Frankly, I do not see these hard times ending soon, and so I submit my death to you.

Throughout the years I have created quite the following of those who have decided to enlighten themselves with my music, and to those of you intelligent enough to do so: you're welcome. My music is a gift that few have been able to encounter, and even fewer appreciate, but it's good to know that some people of higher stature, and elegance, and curiosity, but also righteous dignity still remain. You are the few who are left, and as we all know, the smartest, most handsome, and most talented of you will lead, therefore I am happy to have led you to greater pastures and homes in my music.

I am but a humble composer, and someone of my status should know when to quit. Hence why I mark the end of my journey in music. Although I have undeniably been one of the most prolific and influential composers of the 21st century, It is clear that many do not want to accept my gift and its beauty. What is a king without his followers? To that I say, a humble king- handsome even, but in his underappreciated state it is best that he finds a people who will follow him. They will follow him with the most noble faith in his lands, trusting him at every step as they should. Granting him or her the most humble and righteous power that he deserves. You do not grant me this birthright, and therefore it is my duty as a king, to find the people who will.

And so I leave you all with this: think of your actions, you are the secondary leaders of this world, and today you have led this world to losing a great asset. While I would never dare compare myself to the greats of Sibelius, and Beethoven, and Mozart, and maybe Bach. I believe it may be time to shift our view of the greats and what they meant, and especially who they are, perhaps to elect someone of greater stature who still lives to guide you, maybe even someone

who you greatly admire in their humbleness to leave. However you hold that power, for I am but a humble king with no servants. So be mindful of your curiosities, of your chosen, and of your leaders, and while I will not beg or grovel like those lesser than me, I ask that you send me with thank yous and farewells. A deserved goodbye from my former followers as you wish me into the next journey. I request that a permanent tab be added to Flat with my music. I also ask that a statue be made in my name to commemorate me, with an engraving that reads “our second savior, Eric M. Razdik”. I request a bowl of fruits be left at this statue, being refilled daily with my favorite fruits such as mangos, pineapple, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, cherries, but absolutely no melon. Anyone who offers melon should be mandated to eat one pound of celery raw, and if they prefer celery, then a pound and a half of snow peas should be supplied. If they prefer both of these, then they are clearly dishonest and should be held in public for citizens to batter them with a tiny wooden statue of my likeness. This is clearly the least you can do for me after all that you have subjected me to.

\*\*Below are some unsolicited comments made by former teachers and friends of mine.

*“Throughout Eric’s long and winding composing journey, he had always proven himself to be several cuts above the rest. The brilliant genius that was his writing wasn’t for the common person and was often misunderstood. In truth, the way that he used to weave musical ideas together was so seamless and so perfectly crafted, that his compositional mastery rivaled that of Johann Sebastian Bach. Some claimed that he had even surpassed all composers who had ever lived. His writing during his life was appreciated by very few, but those few were truly shown the graceful gift from God that is Eric’s music.”* - A former follower and friend.

*“I have never heard music as beautiful and well crafted as his, and I am truly saddened that I never had the opportunity to work with him. The level of maturity and elegance would have brought something truly special to my lesser works such as Star Wars or Indiana Jones. He is truly a savant if there ever was one, and if he ever were to resign from his position of leadership I would take it upon myself to never write a piece again, for it would be insulting to try and even imitate his music.”* - John Williams if asked by a reporter.

*“In my time as a teacher, I have never encountered a more bright and insightful soul than Eric. In our first weeks of his senior year I remember him shocking me with his wisdom and abilities. While I did not work with him specifically in composition, what I saw was absolutely stunning. I would venture to compare him to the likes of Bach or Mozart, but honestly doing so might be insulting to his abilities. I am deeply regretful for not supporting him more as a composer, but also as a leader, and I believe we will all be truly upset at this news.”* - Former mentor turned student and follower.

Farwell and goodbye,

Eric M. Razdik