

## SMC Template

**Performer Names: Elbert Chen, Rakshita Raghunah, Ron Mishra**

Introductions (about you, why you like playing your instrument/singing, what you enjoy about performing, how long you have been taking music lessons, where you are at in school, what you hope to do after school, why you joined Suite Melody Care):

Introduction: Hello everyone! My name is Elbert and I am a Suite Melody Care Pianist. I am 15 years old and I go to Cawthra Park Secondary School as a grade 10 music student. I have been playing the piano since I was 6 years old and while I initially didn't think much of it, I love it now. I enjoy playing the piano because I feel that music is a language that every person in the world understands. Me being not the most socially comfortable person, I feel like it is a way for me to communicate with audiences in I joined Suite Melody Care because I saw it as a really meaningful and enjoyable way to volunteer. I am able to fulfill a requirement of my high school diploma doing something I am passionate about and sharing something I've worked on for so many hours with a willing audience. After I graduate from high school, I'm hoping to go into the Sciences and hopefully study Medicine. I love this program, it is really amazing. Thank you.

Suite Melody Care Mission Statement:

Suite Melody Care encourages talented, young musicians across the country to give back to their community by sharing themed, interactive performances with audiences in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and retirement residences.

Theme for Performance: Chopin Compilation

Pieces and Trivia:

Prelude in E Minor by Chopin: This piece is believed to be a musical statement of the suffering Chopin felt from his health issues with tuberculosis. A famous composer called this prelude - suffocation because of its sense of despair. This piece was in fact played at Chopin's funeral and the way I see this piece, each descending chord represents the increasing anger and frustration Chopin felt in his life, and the final E minor cadence is so satisfying because it conveys a sense of finality over all this despair.

Nocturne in C-Sharp Minor by Chopin: This is the first Chopin nocturne I will be playing for you today. Chopin composed this piece as an exercise for his older sister Ludwika Chopin, for his 2nd piano concerto. This piece had been called reminiscence by many composers because it

sounds very dark and dreary. This piece is most famous in a film called the Pianist. The story is about a jewish polish pianist who was almost killed in the holocaust. The amazing thing is that he was captured by a german officer but after he played a chopin ballade, the german officer did the most amazing thing. He spared his life. And now I will tell you my story, as the jewish pianist did to the officer through this beautiful piece.

Nocturne in E minor by Chopin: This is another Chopin nocturne that I will be playing for you. This is in fact the first nocturne that Chopin composed and he was heavily influenced by a composer named John Field, who created the idea of the nocturne and Chopin brought it to fame. Chopin composed this piece at a time of emotional despair and it embodies the idea of a solo aria over beautiful flowing chords. This piece was also composed around the time that Chopin decided to focus solely on composing for the piano.

Nocturne in C minor by Chopin: This will be the final Chopin nocturne I play today, and I feel as though it is underappreciated and not well known. When I asked my piano teacher if I could learn the 21st Nocturne by Chopin, she didn't even know this piece existed. While there isn't much information on this nocturne, I feel as though it is extremely beautiful because of it's haunting melody. I feel that this piece is not overly angry or frustrated as Chopin might convey in his etudes, but it is a melancholic sadness and Chopin just seems to have accepted this sadness. Fun fact, this is one of the only Chopin nocturnes that end in a minor key.

Property of Suite Nocturne