

ANNOTATED NOTES, *O RED SOX FOREVER AND EVER* (©2001, Patricia Van Ness)

¹The foundation for the first and last movements is an *ostinato*, a musical pattern repeated many times in succession. For centuries, classical music, such as the 13-century *Amor potest conqueri*, has been based on ostinatos. *Hit the Road, Jack*, by Ray Charles, is another stately example; the bass line of *Red Sox Forever and Ever* descends as does Charles's masterpiece, thus bringing to mind the great pennant-deciding game between Boston and New York in the fall of 1904: ninth inning, Boston batting, tied game, 2 out, runner at third; New York pitching ace Jack Chesbro (41 wins in 1904) threw a wild pitch that soared over the head of Yankee catcher Red Kleinow, and Boston scored. Boston forced Jack Chesbro to "Hit the Road, Jack," and gloriously won the pennant.

²Nomar Garciaparra, All Star Red Sox shortstop and 1999 and 2000 American League batting champion.

³Ted "The Kid" Williams, also known as "Teddy Ballgame," Red Sox and baseball great from 1939 to 1960, and the last batter to hit above .400 for a season average (.406, 1941). "Despite the 'Williams Shift' used by opponents, Ted's on base percentage was the highest in history: 48%." (Perry King Neubauer, email to composer 23 May 2001)

⁴His *personality* is perhaps more loved now than during his playing days, when he was often cranky. However his actual playing ability was fervently loved then, as now.

⁵Pedro Martinez, Red Sox ace pitcher, and the first pitcher to receive the Cy Young award in both leagues. His earned run average (the most accurate measure of a pitcher's ability) is consistently the best in the Major Leagues, and he has four superb pitches: fastball, changeup, curveball, and slider.

⁶Martinez is known as the "stopper" because his great pitching allows the Sox to stay in the game and hopefully win, thus stopping losing streaks.

⁷Red Sox batters are notorious for their lack of run support for Martinez; for instance, during one bleak 10 game stretch against the New York Yankees with Pedro pitching, the team managed only 1.4 runs per game on his behalf. It is the composer's belief that this lack of run support contributes to Martinez's yearly tendinitis, as he is forced to throw extremely hard deep into each game.

⁸Manny Ramirez, Red Sox DH and outfielder, and a great hitter. By his own admission makes "an obscene amount of money." (Perry King Neubauer, *ibid.*)

⁹Jimmy Williams, Red Sox Manager 1997 - 16 August 2001 (Black Thursday). He was Manager of the Year in 1998 and is a creative, dignified, brilliant, hard-working and highly-respected baseball man.

¹⁰Musically, the second and fourth movements are referred to as chant. This is characterized by a single melody ascending and descending in a step-by-step progression, usually without regard to a strict meter (an example of strict meter is *Hit the Road, Jack*). In these movements, the soprano is accompanied by a "drone" held by the lower instruments. Chant was chosen for these movements to convey the drama and angst of Life, Betrayal, Longing, Human Frailty, and Hope.

¹¹"A misplay on the part of the defensive team that helps the offensive team." (Paul Dickson, *The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary*, Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1998.)

¹²Baseball, or life itself.

¹³As Brian “The Belville Basher” Daubach said in a post-game interview with Joe Castiglione and Jerry Trupiano in April 2001, “He [Rick Down, Red Sox batting coach] keeps our attitude positive, since so much of baseball is about failure.”

¹⁴With two out in the ninth inning of the sixth game of the 1986 World Series (Sox ahead in the series 3-2) and with the Sox leading 5-4, Bob Stanley was called in to relieve Calvin Shiraldi. Stanley's wild pitch allowed the game to be tied, 5-5. On Stanley's tenth pitch to Mookie Wilson, Wilson hit a grounder to Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner. The grounder drifted between Buckner's aging legs into short right field. The Mets won the game.

¹⁵Bill Buckner

¹⁶Bill Buckner had a 22-season career. His career fielding percentage was an amazing .992 (he committed a total of only 130 errors in 22 seasons). He was an All-Star and a batting champion.

¹⁷The Sox lost the Series.

¹⁸The melodic interval of the first two syllables of the word “devastating” is an augmented fourth, known as the “devil’s interval” in medieval times due to its unpleasant sound. It is used here to indicate the severity of sorrow caused by the error.

¹⁹Note on Movement III: though the listener may not identify it, the viola’s opening notes are from the first phrase of *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* (words by Jack Norworth, music by Albert von Tilzer, published 1908) in augmented (stretched-out) form, establishing a musical foundation over which the soprano’s melody is heard (a metaphor for baseball providing the foundation for the melody of our lives).

²⁰The Red Sox’s home park. “It was built in 1912 and rebuilt in 1934, and offers, as do most Boston artifacts, a compromise between Man’s Euclidean determinations and Nature’s beguiling irregularities.” (John Updike, “Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu,” *The New Yorker*, 1960. Reprinted in Dan Riley, editor, *The Red Sox Reader*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991.) The Fenway Park architect was James McLaughlin.

²¹“Frail” is a euphemism for “lousy” or “awful,” in that it is often impossible to remember one is at a ballpark when sitting in the right field stands due to the poor sightlines.

²²Left field stands afford a fabulous view of the action.

²³Radio. “The sound of a ballgame on the radio is the background music of summer.” Susan Sheriff Neubauer, conversation with composer 29 August 2001.

²⁴The high left-field wall of Fenway Park, painted green, referred to as “The Green Monster.” It is constructed of tin, steel and concrete.

²⁵Long-time play-by-play radio announcer for the Red Sox. The clarity and shrewdness of his calls have brought him much respect. “Sweet” refers to his fervent love of the game and kind nature, evident even when the Sox are down.

²⁶“A uniform decoration composed of rows of thin vertical stripes. In a baseball context, the term is almost always used to refer to the pinstriped New York Yankees.” Paul Dickson, *ibid.* The person to whom this applies will be disclosed in Note 29 below.

²⁷Babe Ruth

²⁸Sold 26 December 1919 by owner Harold Frazee to the New York Yankees.

²⁹Former Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemens. After stating at length that “It’s not about the money” and that he would never move to New York, he eventually accepted an astronomical offer from the Yankees.

³⁰Strikeouts

³¹A base on balls, sometimes known as a "walk in the park."

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May our rosy dreams come true.