General Concert Theme: Picture in your mind a great carnival—parades with hundreds of marchers tramping in unison, colorful flags waving, march music blaring, the crowd cheering—these are all images that translate easily into music. Carnivals, fairs and circuses—the very words suggest sound: from the sounds of march music to slightly off-key, but colorful, sounds of the hurdy-gurdy; the clamor of the crowd, the sense of many things going on at one time, and even to the elements of human drama which often accompany them. These sounds are the kind which inspire composers of music. Today's program is devoted solely to the music some of our greatest composers have written to convey the sounds and emotions of carnivals, fairs, and circuses.

It should be easy for you to visualize the scenes which these composers are creating through their "sound pictures." You will hear music from several different periods, from the 19th century to the present day. And you will see how each of the composers has a very unique and distinct way of interpreting our concert subject. The final number, Circus Parade, by Bamert, will require some audience participation, a case of the composer asking the audience to share in the creation of his musical idea.

THE PROGRAM

Fucik — "Entry of the Gladiators"
Berlioz — "Roman Carnival" Overture
Ives — "Country Band March"
Smetana — "Dance of the Comedians"
Stravinsky — "Petrouchka," Carnival Scene
Stravinsky — "Circus Polka"
Bamert — "Circus Parade," with audience participation

Portland Symphony Orchestra
Richard Vanstone, PSO Violinist & Assistant Conductor