The vocabulary of music is sound; sound that tells a story. Our ancestors sang to invoke the gods, to celebrate rites of passage, and to create meaning through stories of heroic feats, love, and profound struggles. We first embellished our songs with percussion, and later with pipes made from reeds or bones. Mere thousands of years ago we added the sounds of vibrating strings. This is the foundation of the chamber music we enjoy today.

Stories told with music transcend stories told with words. As Gustav Mahler wrote, “If a composer could say what he had to say in words, he would not bother trying to say it in music.” At concerts we listen together to the same notes, but we hear distinct stories. And thus we create the bond amongst audiences and artists that led the 19th century French poet Alphonse de Lamartine to say that “Music is the literature of the heart.”

All concerts are presented on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. in Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium.