

## Whiling Away the Time

*By CC Huffhines*

There are times in my life when I find time on my hands ... no official duty to perform, free time to enjoy myself without interruptions. These are the times I access my large CD collection of classical music, a collection that has taken my entire lifetime to create.

What selections are choices for the day? It might be any composer, together with a popular orchestra and performer. Beethoven is a standby that almost always fits my mood of the day. He never gets out of favor, even though I listen to his compositions more often than any other composer. Any one of his nine symphonies, performed by the Berlin Philharmonic under von Karajan, always causes me to marvel at the overwhelming beauty of the music. Same goes for Beethoven's string quartets, his Trios for piano, violin and cello, and his Concerto for Piano. I have a CD of this concerto performed by the Cleveland Orchestra and Leon Fleisher, pianist.

Occasionally, when I have the free time, I will go to YouTube on my computer for musical selections. I just watched Martha Argerich perform the Piano Concerto with the Detroit Symphony. It was fascinating to see the speed at which her fingers moved. The audience was also moved, with applause they rewarded her with four curtain calls!

I recently watched and listened on the computer to Argerich perform in Warsaw the Chopin piano concerto. It, too, was a satisfying way to while away the time. (I once, long ago, attended a concert by Argerich in Dallas, important to me.)

I speak of listening to this music as a way to kill time. It is way more important than that ... my life would be empty without it.