

The Glory of Classical Music
Course Materials

Syllabus

Session One

- Why listen to classical music?
- Why is classical music more difficult to engage with than other musical genres?
- Current state of classical music.
- What distinguishes classical music from other musical genres?
- Eras in classical music
- Major classical music genres

Renaissance Era

- Musical forms of the Renaissance era
- The rise of secular music and instrumental music
- Instruments of the Renaissance period
- Greatest Renaissance composers
- Musical excerpts

Session Two

Baroque Era

- Musical forms of the Baroque Era
- The rise of Opera
- General adoption of Italian musical terms
- Greatest Baroque composers
- Musical excerpts

Sessions Three, Four & Part One of Session Five

Classical Era

- Development of new musical forms
- Development of new musical genres
- Chamber Music & the String Quartet
- Lieder
- The Symphony
- Rise of the Orchestra
- Instruments of the Classical Era
- Greatest Classical Era Composers
- Musical Excerpts

Part Two of Session Five and Sessions Six & Seven

Romantic Era

- Development of the Composer as Hero and Independent Artist
- Music of the Future vs. Abstract Music
- Symphony & Symphonic Poem
- Opera - From Bel Canto to Music Drama
- Development of Operetta
- Rise of the Conductor and Professional Orchestras
- Rise of Ballet Music
- Greatest Romantic Era Composers
- Musical Excerpts

Session Eight

- Atonality & Serialism
- The Rise of Film Music
- Crisis in Classical Music and its Interactions With Other Musical Genres
- Divergence of Style of Western Composers and Soviet Composers
- Response to Avant-garde Trends in Classical Music
- Post-Modern Focus by Composers on Renewed Accessibility

- Greatest Modern Composers
- Musical Excerpts

I will email everyone each Friday after class a list of the musical excerpts used in that class as well as key concepts discussed. We will focus the majority of our attention on the Classical Era and Romantic Era since I consider them the pinnacle of Classical music.

Feel free to take notes during class if so inclined to maximize content retention. Additionally I recommend that during the weeks between classes, students choose three composers from the list of greatest composers in the era covered in the previous class, and listen to some pieces by each of them. Innumerable recordings can be found on Youtube by searching a composer's name.

Questions for your consideration could include:

How does the music reflect the concepts discussed in class?

Which composer appealed to you most? Why?

The goal of the class is to learn and to have fun!

Supplemental Reading List

These books are suggested for further study but are not required to take the course. If you are interested, I recommend that you choose one book about a favorite composer and read it over the course of the semester. I can highly recommend all of them.

"Johannes Brahms: A Biography" by Jan Swafford

"Beethoven-Anguish & Triumph" by Jan Swafford

"Mozart:The Reign of Love" by Jan Swafford

"Johann Sebastian Bach:The Learned Musician" by Christoph Wolff "

"Handel:The Man and His Music" by Jonathan Keates

"Aaron Copland:The Life and Work of an Uncommon Man" by Howard Pollack

"Tchaikovsky:The Man and His Music" by David Brown

"The Last Prodigy:A Biography of Erich Wolfgang Korngold" by Brendan Carroll

"Haydn:Chronicle & Works" by H.C. Robbins-Landon (five volumes) "

"Berlioz:The Making of an Artist; Servitude and Greatness" by David Cairns (two volumes)

"Franz Liszt:The Virtuoso Years;The Weimar Years; The Final Years" by Alan Walker (three volumes)

"Frederic Chopin:A Life And Times" by Alan Walker

"Hans von Bulow: A Life and Times" by Alan Walker

"The Life of Richard Wagner" by Ernest Newman (four volumes) "

"Gustav Mahler" by Henry-Louis de la Grange (four volumes)

I have published a dozen articles on unsung composers and unsung pieces of classical music that I feel should be better known. They may be found here:

<https://www.musicweb-international.com/hartman.htm>

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