

French and Spanish Masters

John Gibbons · john@holdekunst.com.com www.holdekunst.com

Course Description:

The French classical tradition is one of the world's most enduring, from 10th-century Notre Dame polyphony to postwar modernism, while the Spanish tradition offers a rich diversity of Arabic and European influences. We will discuss what is French about Fauré, Dukas, Saint-Saëns, and Parisian opera. We will cover early giants Couperin and Rameau, and 20th-century figures such as Debussy, Poulenc, and Boulez. Ravel, a Basque, straddles both French and Spanish traditions. We will discuss the Spanish virtuosos tradition of Sor (guitar), Sarasate (violin), and Granados (piano), and the Zarzuela genre. Composers covered include Albéniz, de Falla, and Rodrigo. Music literacy is not required.

Syllabus:

Week 1: Spain – According to the French

Lalo: *Symphonie espagnole*

Charbrier: *España*

Bizet: *Carmen*

Debussy: *Iberia*

Ravel: *Rapsodie espagnole*

Week 2: The French Baroque; Spanish Music at the court of Charles V

Lully, Couperin, Rameau

Week 3: Berlioz

Week 4: French Opera

Debussy, Gounod, Meyerbeer, Massenet, Ravel, Saint-Saëns, Dukas.

Week 5: Ballet

Falla: *El sombrero de tres picos*

Ravel: *Daphnis et Chloé, La valse, Boléro*

Debussy: *Jeux*

Dukas: *La Péri*

Spain

Antonio Soler (1729-1783)

- Fernando Sor (1778-1839)
- Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)
- Isaac Albéniz (1860–1909)
- Enrique Granados (1867–1916)
- Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)
- Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)
- Joaquín Rodrigo (1901–1999)

France

- Jean-Baptiste de Lully (1632-1687)
- Jean-Philippe Rameau (1685-1764)
- Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)
- François Couperin (1688-1933)
- François-Joseph Gossec (1734-1829)
- André Grétry (1741-1813)
- Jean François Lesueur (1760?-1837)
- César Franck (1822-1890)
- Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
- Georges Bizet (1838-1874)
- Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
- Vincent d'Indy (1851-1931)
- Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
- Paul Dukas (1865-1935)
- Albert Roussel (1869-1937)
- Florent Schmitt (1870-1958)
- Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
- Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)
- Henri Dutilleaux (1916-2013)
- Pierre Boulez (1925-)

Les Six

- Georges Auric (1899–1983)
- Louis Durey (1888–1979)
- Arthur Honegger (1892–1955)
- Darius Milhaud (1892–1974)
- Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)
- Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983)

Week 6: French Symphonies & More

Bizet, Franck, d'Indy, Saint-Saëns, Fauré

Week 7: Spanish Piano Masterpieces

Albéniz: *Iberia*

Falla: *Noches en los jardines de España*

Rodrigo: *Concierto de Aranjuez*

Week 8: Twentieth Century

Debussy: *La mer*

Satie: *Socrate*

Poulenc: *Dialogues des carmélites*

Roussel, Honneger, Dutilleaux, Messiaen, Boulez

Recommended Readings:

- Berlioz and His Century: An Introduction to the Age of Romanticism
by Jacques Barzun
- Bizet and His World
by Mina Stein Kirstein Curtiss, Georges Bizet
- Sacred Passions: The Life and Music of Manuel de Falla
by Carol A. Hess
- The New Grove French Baroque Masters: Lully, Charpentier, Lalande, Couperin, Rameau (The New Grove Series)
by H. Wiley Hitchcock, Edward Higginbottom, Graham Sadler, Albert Cohen
- The Fallen Nightingale
by John W. Milton
- French Music from the Enlightenment to Romanticism
by Jean Mongrande
- Gabriel Fauré: A Musical Life
by Jean-Michel Nectoux
- The New Grove Twentieth-Century French Masters: Faure Debussy Satie Ravel Poulenc Messiaen Boulez (New Grove Composers)
by Jean-Michel Nectoux
- The Harlequin Years: Music in Paris 1917-1929
by Roger Nichols
- Hand in Hand With Joaquin Rodrigo: My Life at the Maestro's Side (Latin American Literary Review Pr)
by Victoria Kamhi De Rodrigo