

Post-Romantic Paris and Vienna: Music in the Age of "Isms"

John Gibbons

Course Description

Impressionism, Expressionism, Folklorism, Primitivism... the first decades of the 20th century offer an extraordinary array of fascinating styles. With Debussy, Stravinsky and the Ballets Russes, Mahler, Korngold, and the Second Viennese School, and figures such as Falla and Bartok, this astounding era is examined via the rival musical capitols of this aesthetically tumultuous time.

Weekly Schedule

N.B. For listening: Multiple works by each composer will be discussed, the emphasis will be on style rather than singling out individual pieces, per se. The timeline stretches from the late 1880s to the early 1920s.

Week 1	Paris	Dukas, Debussy and Ravel: Symbolism, Impressionism, Neoclassicism
Week 2	Vienna	Mahler and Wolf: Post romantic Symphony, Song and Lieder
Week 3	Paris	Stravinsky, de Falla and the Ballets Russes: Modernism and Primitivism
Week 4	Vienna	Zemlinsky, Schreker and Korngold: Expressionism (Part 1) and Surrealism
Week 5	Excursion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bartok and Hungary• Janacek and Moravia• Enescu and Romania
Week 6	Paris	Satie, Milhaud and "Les Six" Modernism and Deconstructionism
Week 7	Vienna	Early Schoenberg and Expressionism (Part 2). Strauss, Pfitzner and the Rejection of Modernism
Week 8	Europe in the 1920s	Stravinsky and "Restoration", Schoenberg and "Progress" (T. Adorno) Ravel, Berg, Krenek and their Operas