### The Graham School · The University of Chicago

### Nationalist Traditions in Music

John Gibbons

**Course Description.** This course focuses on the national traditions often omitted (generally for convenience) in standard musical survey courses. The Czech tradition, as represented by Smetana, Dvorak, Martinu, and the Moravian Janacek, and the English and closely-related Scandinavian tradition, represented by Elgar, Vaughn-Williams, Sibelius, and Nielsen, are perhaps the most viable traditions outside of the Russian-French-German orbits. Many of the most distinctive and colorful scores in the repertories of symphony associations and opera houses stem from these often-overlooked perspectives. Other repertory to be considered includes the Hungarian master Kodaly, the Pole Szymanowski, and the Norwegian Grieg.

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| **Week** | **Topics** | **Works Discussed** |
| 1 | Czech Tradition, Part 1 | Smetana: Bartered Bride (1870), Mà Vlast (1879) |
| 2 | Czech Tradition, Part 2 | Dvorak: Slavonic Dances, Rusalka, Chamber Music |
| 3 | Czech Tradition, Part 3 | Dvorak: Symphonies Selections by Janacek and Martinu, TBD |
| 4 | Polish & Hungarian Traditions | Karlowicz, Szymanowsky, Liszt, Bartok, Kodaly, Chopin |
| 5 | German Reactionary Romantic Movement | Schumann, Wagner, Pfitzner, Schmidt |
| 6 | Nordic Traditions, Part 1 | Berwald, Grieg, and Nielsen |
| 7 | Nordic Traditions, Part 2 | Sibelius: Symphonies and Tone Poems |
| 8 | English Traditions: From the Imperialist to the Pastoral | Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Holst and Delius |

**Recommended Books**

Dvorak and His World by Michael Beckerman

New Worlds of Dvorak by Michael Beckerman

[*Dvorak (Life & Times)*](http://www.amazon.com/Dvorak-Life-Times-Kurt-Honolka/dp/1904341527/ref%3Dpd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1207110237&sr=1-1) by Kurt Honolka

*Dvorak in America: In Search of the New World* by Joseph Horowitz

Smetana by Brian Large

*Bela Bartok* (20th Century Composers) by Kenneth Chalmers

*Expressionism in Twentieth-Century Music* by John C Crawford

*Béla Bartók and Turn-of-the-Century Budapest* by Judit Frigyesi, Judith Frigyesi

*Janacek's Uncollected Essays on Music* by Leos Janacek

*The New Grove Modern Masters* (The New Grove Series) by Vera Lampert

*Inside Bluebeard's Castle: Music and Drama in Bela Bartok's Opera* by Carl S. Leafstedt

*BOHUSLAV MARTINU; THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC* by SAFRANEK MILOS

*Bartok and His World* Princeton University Press

*The New Grove Turn of the Century Masters: Janacek, Mahler, Strauss, Sibelius* (Composer Biography Series) by Stanley Sadie, John Tyrrell

*The Life and Music of Bela Bartok* by Halsey Stevens

*Janaceks Operas a Documentary Account* by John Tyrrell

*Exploring Twentieth-Century Music: Tradition and Innovation* by Arnold Whittall

*Janácek: Glagolitic Mass* (Cambridge Music Handbooks) by Paul Wingfield

*Janacek: A Composer's Life* by Mirka Zemanova