



Shostakovich

1-Day Seminar

Description:

More and more, critics consider the highly controversial Soviet composer Shostakovich to be the most important existentialist composer of the 20th century. A remarkable prodigy who astonished the musical world with his First Symphony, Shostakovich lived during the dangerous political climate of the Stalinist era. He developed a paradoxical style characterized by searing emotional intensity coexisting with politically motivated or mandated paradigms. This class will place the musical content in context, with analysis, lecture, and listening, and survey relevant personal, literary, and journalistic sources. Music literacy is not required.

Recommended Performances

(Chicago) The London Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Vladimir Jurowski, will perform Shostakovich's 8th Symphony on October 18, 2014. Also on the program, Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on the theme by Paganinni* with pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, and Lindberg's *Chorale*.

(Chicago) The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by Ingo Metzmacher, will perform Shostakovich's 11th Symphony on December 4,5,6 and 9, 2014. Also on the program: Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Nutracker*.

(Chicago) The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by Semyon Bychkov, will perform Shostakovich's 8th Symphony in April 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2015. Also on the program: Rachmaninov's 1st Piano Concerto with Daniil Trifonov.

(Radio) The Metropolitan Opera will rebroadcast a November performance of Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsenski District* on WFMT on April 18, 2015.

Recommended Recordings

CDs

The Symphonies: Rudolf Barshai and WDR Sinfonieorchester

String Quartets: The Fitzwilliam Quartet

The War Symphonies: Valery Gergiev, London Symphony Orchestra

Concertos: Performances by Rostropovich, Oistrach et al

Video

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk District, Netherlands Opera

The Bolt. Bolshoi Opera Ballet

Yevgeny Mravinsky, Soviet Conductor, Russian Aristocrat

Keeping Score: Shostakovich 5th Symphony. And interactive educational experience with Michael Tilson Thomas

Web

The Metropolitan Opera performed Shostakovich's *The Nose* on October 13, 2013. The performance can be viewed on the web and on mobile devices via the Met website's OnDemand video program.

Keeping Score: Shostakovich 5th Symphony – Interactive web experience blending music and biography by Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Also on Blu-ray.

<http://keepingscore.org/interactive/shostakovich-fifth-symphony>

Agenda

10:00-1:30 – Shostakovich, a brief biography

10:30-11:00 – Youthful works and early modernist style

11:00-11:45 – Ballet and Opera

- *The Bolt*
- *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk District*

11:45-12:30 – Symphonies 1-5

12:30-1:30 – Lunch (on your own)

1:30-2:00 – The War Years.
Symphonies 7-9

2:00-2:30 – The Concertos

2:30-3:15 – Symphonies 10-15

3:15-4:00 – The String Quartets