

Graham School of Continuing Studies

The Symphony Since Beethoven

Course Description. Beethoven's legacy proved an inspiration and obstacle to the next generation of symphonists, who struggled with the implications of Beethoven's formal innovations, but managed to infuse the symphonic genre with greatly expanded thematic dimension inspired by the philosophy, literature, and even visual arts that shaped their own experience. Our core repertoire will be the symphonies of Mendelssohn (including the 'Scottish' and the 'Italian' Symphonies), Schumann (including the Rhenish), Brahms, Bruckner, and Mahler.

Syllabus

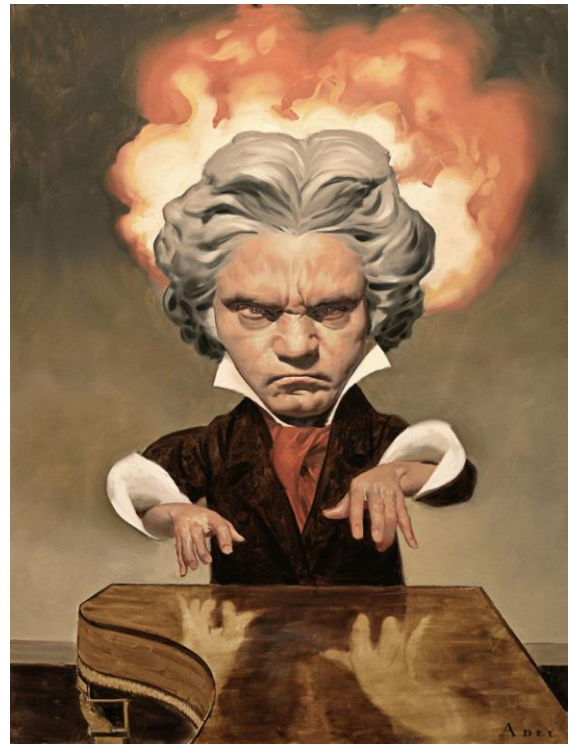
Weeks 1-2: Adversity and Triumph

- Brahms Symphony No. 1 (1876)
- Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 (1888)
- Sibelius Symphony No. 2 (1902)
- Nielsen Symphony No. 5 (1922)
- Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 (1937)
- Prokofiev Symphony No. 5 (1944)
- Copland Symphony No. 3 (1946)



Week 3: Pastoral Symphonies

- Schumann Symphony No. 1 (1841)
- Brahms Symphony No. 2 (1877)
- Dvořák Symphony No. 6 (1880)
- Also: an overview of Mendelssohn's symphonies



Week 4: Concentration and Logic

- Sibelius Symphony No. 4 (1911),
- Symphony No. 7 (1924)
- D'indý Symphony No 2 (1872)
- Martinů Symphony No. 3 (1944)

Weeks 5-6: The Symphony As Autobiography

- Schumann Symphony No. 2 (1846)
- Brahms Symphony No. 3 (1883)
- Shostakovich Symphony No. 15 (1971)
- An overview of the symphonies of Karl Amadeus Hartmann and Gustav Mahler.

- A look at the symphonies of Berlioz

Week 7-8: Monumentality

- Bruckner Symphony No. 8 (1887)
- Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 (1883)
- Messiaen's Turangilila Symphony (1949)
- Also: a brief history of symphonies in 20th century.

Recommended Readings

After Beethoven: Imperatives of Originality in the Symphony, by Mark Evan Bonds

The Symphony: A Listener's Guide, by Michael Steinberg

For the Love of Music: Invitations to Listening, by Michael Steinberg, Larry Rothe

Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms, by Rheinhold Brinkman

Beethoven and His World, Princeton University Press

Mendelssohn: A Life in Music, by R. Larry Todd

Mendelssohn (Master Musicians Series), by Philip Radcliffe, Peter Ward Jones

The Cambridge Companion to Mendelssohn, Cambridge University Press

Schumann on Music: A Selection from the Writings, by Robert Schumann

Schumann (Master Musicians Series), by Eric Frederick Jensen

Robert Schumann: Herald of a "New Poetic Age", by John Daverio

Robert Schumann (Life&Times series), by Barbara Meier

Crossing Paths: Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms, by John Daverio

Johannes Brahms: A Biography, by Jan Swafford

The Cambridge Companion to Bruckner (Cambridge Companions to Music), Cambridge University Press

Bruckner (Master Musicians), by Derek Watson

The essence of Bruckner: An essay towards the understanding of his music, by Robert Wilfred Levick Simpson

Mahler: A Musical Physiognomy, by Theodor W. Adorno

A Composers' World, Paul Hindemith

Richard Strauss: Man, Musician, Enigma, by Michael Kennedy