

Graham School of General Studies
The Great Virtuosos and the Romantic Concertos
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Course Description:

An entertaining picture of this most visceral of musical traditions will emerge through our consideration of CDs, DVDs, musical analysis, and contemporary documents. The swashbuckling careers of Liszt, Rubenstein, Louis Morreau Gottschalk, and Paganini will be placed in the context of the evolution of the virtuoso concerto. Modern-era virtuosos such as Vladimir Horowitz will also be included, as will obscure and contemporary concertos. Time permitting, class participants may suggest favorite works and performers.



| | Featured Works | Some Featured Performers |
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| Week 1 | Concerti by Mozart and Beethoven | Pianists: Gilels, Pollini, Haskil, Hess, Casadesus Violinists: Szeryring, Mutter, Francescatti |
| Week 2 | Concerti by Schumann, Mendelssohn, Chopin | Pianists: Rosenthal, Kissin, Rubinstein, Cortot, Zimmerman |
| Week 3 | Liszt, Paganini, and lesser-known imitators | |
| Week 4 | Brahms, Bruch, and Dvorak | Pianists: Brendel, Arrau Violinists: Heifetz, Accardo, Grumiaux Cellists: Ma, Casals |
| Week 5 | A history of performance style and a survey of concerti, for relatively neglected instruments | |
| Week 6 | The Russians Are Coming! | Pianists: Horowitz, Richter, Rachmaninov Violinist: Oistrakh Cellist: Rostropovich |
| Week 7 | 20 th Century Concerti: Bartok, Szymanowski, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Britten, Berg, Debussy | Pianist: Gieseking, Hamelin Violinist: Menuhin Cellists: Starker, Casals |
| Week 8 | Current Virtuosi | A broad spectrum of pianists and violinists |

