

# Classical Music Appreciation—Introductory

## Class Outline

Bill Buffam, instructor  
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This class emphasizes actually listening to music—we don't much delve into its structure and history. That said, we cover just enough of classical music structure to be able to understand and relate to it in a satisfying way. The works are chosen for their ready accessibility, and cover a fairly broad spectrum of musical styles. We'll be listening to complete works (as opposed to excerpts) without interruption, guided by program notes. I'll be marking off our progress as we listen to each piece, keeping you oriented to where we are in its structure.

We'll have a 5-10 minute class discussion of each piece, during which we'll all be able to learn from one another's questions and insights.

Here is the outline for the entire class:

### week 1

*Barber, Adagio for Strings*<sup>1</sup>  
Introductions  
*Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*  
Theme-and-Variations Form  
*Britten, Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*  
*Rodrigo, Concierto (for guitar) de Aranjuez*

### week 2

Basic elements of classical music structure  
*Mozart, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*  
*Holst, A Moorside Suite*  
*Holst, The Planets*  
*Elgar, Pomp and Circumstance No. 1*

### week 3

*Mussorgsky, Night on Bare Mountain*  
*Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition*  
*Sibelius, Karelia Suite*  
*Wiren, Serenade for Strings*  
*Tchaikovsky, Capriccio Italien*

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<sup>1</sup> Italics indicate music we'll listen to.

week 4

*Wagner, Prelude to Act III Lohengrin*  
*Beethoven, Symphony No. 1*  
*Warlock, Capriol Suite*  
*Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 4*  
*Wagner, Prelude to the Mastersingers*

week 5

*Still, Symphony No 1*  
*Debussy, Prelude a L'Après Midi d'un Faune*  
*Vivaldi, The Four Seasons*  
*Vaughan Williams, The Wasps*  
*Wagner, Ride of the Valkyries*  
*Copland, Fanfare for the Common Man*

week 6

*Tchaikovsky, Symphony No. 5*  
*Tchaikovsky, Marche Slave*  
*Delius, On hearing the first cuckoo in spring*  
*Saint Saëns, Symphony No. 3*