

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*¹
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

¹ 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