

The Tone Poem and Musical Pictorialism

Syllabus

Instructor

John Gibbons

Quarter: Summer 2024

Start – end date: June 13 – August 8

Session day/time: Thursdays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm CT

Course Code and Section: HUAS78059 24U1

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Course Overview

Modality

Remote Learning

Stravinsky famously claimed, “Music is incapable of expressing anything at all.” If so, why are there so many illustrative musical works? As scholars debate “music as language,” generations of concertgoers have thrilled to Wagner’s magic fire and tilted at windmills with Strauss’s *Don Quixote*. How does music paint pictures and inspire emotion? Is it the power of suggestion from program notes, or is there really a musical language? What about the “secret programs” in works like the Berg Violin Concerto? This class examines the program music of Berlioz, Liszt, Strauss, Sibelius, Respighi, Debussy, Stravinsky, Vaughn Williams, Janáček, Adams, and others.

Recommended Texts:

Wolff, Christoph, *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician*

Wyn Jones, David *The Life of Haydn*.

Kinderman, William. *Beethoven*

Berlioz (Master Musicians Series)

Hamilton, Kenneth, *After the Golden Age*

Walker, Alan, *Franz Liszt* (3 volumes)

Guttman, Robert, *Richard Wagner: The Man, His Mind, and His Music*

Cooke, Deryk *The Language of Music*

Janáček, Leoš, *Collected Essays* (for Dvořák’s *Wood-Dove*)

Safranik, Milos, *Bohuslav Martinu the Man & His Music*

Large, Brian, *Martinu*

New Grove Russian Masters 1 (for Tchaikovsky) and 2 (for Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich)

Fay, Laurel, *Shostakovich: A Life*

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai, *My Musical Life*

Karłowicz – See Wikipedia.

Rosen, Charles, *Arnold Schoenberg*

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

New Grove English Masters

New Grove French Masters

Ottorino Respighi – See Wikipedia

Goss, Glenda Dawn, *Sibelius: A Composer's Life and the Awakening of Finland*

Course schedule

Week	Composers
Week 1	Kuhnau, Bach, Haydn, Beethoven
Week 2	Berlioz, Liszt, Wagner
Week 3	Smetana, Dvořák, Janáček, Martinu
Week 4	Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Rimsky-Korsakov, Karłowicz
Week 5	Schoenberg and Strauss
Week 6	Vaughn Williams, Elgar, Delius, Britten, Holst
Week 7	Debussy, Respighi, Ravel, Dukas
Week 8	Sibelius

	Nature	Painting	Poetry	Literature	Narrative
1700s	<i>Creation</i> (1798) and <i>Seasons</i> (1800) Haydn				Biblical Sonatas Kuhnau, 1700 <i>Caprice on the Departure of a</i>

					<i>Beloved Brother</i> Bach, 1704
1800s	<i>6th Symphony</i> Beethoven, 1808				
1830s		<i>Harold in Italy</i> Berlioz, 1834			
1850s		<i>Sposalizio</i> Liszt, 1858	<i>Les preludes</i> Liszt, 1854		
1870s		<i>Siegfried Idyll</i> Wagner, 1870		<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> Tchaikovsky, 1870	<i>Ma vlast</i> Smetana, 1874-1880
1880s		<i>Scheherazade</i> Rimsky-Korsakov, 1888			
1890s	<i>Appalachia</i> Delius, 1898-1903		<i>Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> Dukas, 1897 <i>Verklärte Nacht</i> , Schoenberg, 1899		<i>Wood Dove</i> Dvořák, 1896
1900s	<i>La Mer</i> Debussy, 1905 Eternal Songs Karłowicz, 1906	<i>Isle of the Dead</i> Rachmaninov, 1909		<i>Pelleas und Melisande</i> Schoenberg, 1903	Cockaigne Overture Elgar, 1901
1910s	<i>Alpensinfonie</i> R. Strauss, 1915 <i>The Planets</i> Holst, 1918		<i>Préludes</i> , Book 1 Debussy, 1910	<i>Taras Bulba</i> Janáček, 1918	2 nd Symphony Vaughn Williams, 1914
1920s	<i>Tapiola</i> Sibelius, 1926	<i>Trittico Botticelliano</i> Respighi, 1927	<i>La valse</i> Ravel, 1920		
1940s	<i>Sea Interludes</i> Britten, 1944				
1950s		<i>Frescos of Piera della Francesca</i> Martinu, 1955			
1960s				<i>Stepan Razin</i> Shostakovich, 1964 <i>October</i> Shostakovich, 1967	

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

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If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.