

Great Symphonies of the 20th Century
A Four Week Online Seminar at RCW
Stephen Schultz
June 2020

Thursday Nights 7:00-9:00pm
July 9, 16, 23, 30

This new class will cover the development of the Symphony as the major genre of Classical orchestral music. From its roots in the 18th century, through major innovations in the 19th century, we will concentrate on Symphonic masterpieces of the 20th century.

The focus will be on specific musical characteristics of the countries and regions where the composers lived. We will cover the instrumentation and harmonic and melodic characteristics of each symphony. Most importantly, we will dive into the programmatic and emotional content of the music created by these masters.

Class #1

Development of the Symphony: 18th and 19th Century Antecedents
Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Berlioz, and Brahms
20th Century Germany: Mahler and Hindemith

Class #2

Scandinavia: Sibelius and Nielsen
Russia: Shostakovich

Class #3

Poland: Penderecki and Gorecki
England: Vaughan Williams and Walton

Class #4:

The Americas: Copland, Still, Chavez, Ginastera

Symphonies we will cover:

Mozart Symphony #41
Beethoven Symphony #7
Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique
Brahms Symphony #1
Mahler Symphonies #5 and #6
Hindemith Mathis der Maler Symphony
Sibelius Symphonies #5 and #6
Nielsen Symphonies #4 and #5
Shostakovich Symphonies #5, #8, and #10
Penderecki Symphonies #1 and #2
Gorecki Symphony #3
Vaughan Williams Symphonies #3 and 5
Walton Symphony #1
Copland Symphony #3
Still Symphony #1 "Afro-American"
Chavez Symphonies #5 and #6
Ginastera Ollantay: Three Symphonic Movements

Books:

The Symphony: A Listeners Guide, Michael Steinberg
The Cambridge Companion to the Symphony, Julian Horton