Graham School of General Studies · The University of Chicago

French and Spanish Masters

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**Course Description:**   
The French classical tradition is one of the world's most enduring, from 10th-century Notre Dame polyphony to postwar modernism, while the Spanish tradition offers a rich diversity of Arabic and European influences. We will discuss what is French about Fauré, Dukas, Saint-Saëns, and Parisian opera. We will cover early giants Couperin and Rameau, and 20th-century figures such as Debussy, Poulenc, and Boulez. Ravel, a Basque, straddles both French and Spanish traditions. We will discuss the Spanish virtuouso tradition of Sor (guitar), Sarasate (violin), and Granados (piano), and the Zarzuela genre. Composers covered include Albéniz, de Falla, and Rodrigo.Music literacy is not required.

## Spain

Antonio Soler (1729-1783)

• Fernando Sor (1778-1839)

• Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

• Isaac Albéniz (1860–1909)

• Enrique Granados (1867–1916)

• Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

• Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)

• Joaquín Rodrigo (1901–1999)

## France

• Jean-Baptiste de Lully (1632-1687)

• Jean-Philippe Rameau (1685-1764)

• Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

• François Couperin (1688-1933)

• François-Joseph Gossec (1734-1829)

• André Grétry (1741-1813)

• Jean François Lesueur (1760?-1837)

• César Franck (1822-1890)

• Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

• Georges Bizet (1838-1874)

• Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

• Vincent d’Indy (1851-1931)

• Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

• Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

• Albert Roussel (1869-1937)

• Florent Schmitt (1870-1958)

• Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

• Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

• Henri Dutilleaux (1916-2013)

• Pierre Boulez (1925-)

**Les Six**

• Georges Auric (1899–1983)

• Louis Durey (1888–1979)

• Arthur Honegger (1892–1955)

• Darius Milhaud (1892–1974)

• Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

• Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983)

**Syllabus:**

**Week 1: Spain – According to the French**  
Lalo: *Symphonie espagnole*

Charbrier: *España*

Bizet: *Carmen*

Debussy: *Iberia*

Ravel: *Rapsodie espagnole*

**Week 2: The French Baroque; Spanish Music at the court of Charles V**  
Lully, Couperin, Rameau

**Week 3: Berlioz**

**Week 4: French Opera**  
Debussy. Gounod, Meyerbeer, Massanet, Ravel, Saint-Saëns, Dukas.

**Week 5: Ballet**  
Falla: *El sombrero de tres pico*

Ravel: *Daphnis et Chloé, La valse, Boléro*

Debussy: *Jeux*

Dukas: [*La Péri*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_P%C3%A9ri_(Dukas))

**Week 6: French Symphonies & More**  
Bizet, Franck, d’Indy, Saint-Saëns, Fauré

**Week 7: Spanish Piano Masterpieces**  
Albéniz: *Iberia*

Falla: *Noches en los jardines de España*

Rodrigo: *Concierto de Aranjuez*

**Week 8: Twentieth Century**  
Debussy: *La mer*

Satie: *Socrate*

Poulenc: *Dialogues des carmélites*

Roussel, Honneger, Dutilleaux, Messiaen, Boulez

**Recommended Readings:**

* Berlioz and His Century: An Introduction to the Age of Romanticism

by Jacques Barzun

* Bizet and His World

by Mina Stein Kirstein Curtiss, Georges Bizet

* Sacred Passions: The Life and Music of Manuel de Falla

by Carol A. Hess

* The New Grove French Baroque Masters: Lully, Charpentier, Lalande, Couperin, Rameau (The New Grove Series)

by H. Wiley Hitchcock, Edward Higginbottom, Graham Sadler, Albert Cohen

* The Fallen Nightingale

by John W. Milton

* French Music from the Enlightenment to Romanticism

by Jean Mongrande

* Gabriel Fauré: A Musical Life

by Jean-Michel Nectoux

* The New Grove Twentieth-Century French Masters: Faure Debussy Satie Ravel Poulenc Messiaen Boulez (New Grove Composers)

by Jean-Michel Nectoux

* The Harlequin Years: Music in Paris 1917-1929

by Roger Nichols

* Hand in Hand With Joaquin Rodrigo: My Life at the Maestro's Side (Latin American Literary Review Pr)

by Victoria Kamhi De Rodrigo