**The Great Pianists  
John Gibbons**

This course is a survey of some of the great and notorious pianists of both before and after the invention of recording technologies. The course will feature simultaneous simulations of historical styles of the piano, as well as an examination of the recorded legacy of pianism and discussion of the essential elements that compose the art and technical craft of piano performance. Participants of the course may expect to acquire an overview of keyboard history, as well as an enriched appreciation of the fascinating world of the piano and its champions.

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| **Week** |  | **Piano-Off** |
| 1 – Slavic Tradition (Part 1) | Sergei Rachmaninoff, Jozef Hofmann, Vladimir Horrowitz, | Chopin 1st Ballade |
| 2 – Slavic Tradition (Part 2) | Sviataslav Richter, Emil Gilels | J. S. Bach, selections from *The Well Tempered Clavier* (TBD) |
| 3 - German Tradition | Artur Schnabel, Rudolf Serkin, Wilhelm Kempff, Alfred Brendel | Schubert’s *Wanderer Fantasy* |
| 4 – Bach Players | Glenn Gould, Rosalyn Tureck, Andras Schiff, Vladimir Feltsman | Rachmaninoff, Prelude in G Minor Op, 23 No. 5 |
| 5 – Chopin Players | Arthur Rubinstein, Krystian Zimerman, Alfred Cortot, Claudio Arrau | Beethoven, Concerto No. 5 “Emperor” |
| 6 –Italian Masters | Arturo Michelangeli, Maurizio Pollini Plus: a look at archival recordings of Lhevinne, Gabrilovich, Friedman, Rosenthal | Brahms, *Variations on a theme by Haydn* |
| 7 – French Repertoire | Music by Debussy, Ravel, Saint-Saëns, Faure (some performances on player piano rolls by the composers) Pianists: Walter Gieseking, Robert Casadesus, and others | Liszt Etude (TBD) |
| 8 – Contemporary Greats | Vladimir Ashkenazy, Evgeny Kissin, Jorge Bolet | Chopin Nocturne (TBD) |

**Reference Materials**

*Arrau on Music and Performance* (Great Pianists: In Their Own Words) by Joseph Horowitz

*Arrau on Music and Performance* by Joseph Horrowitz ed.,

*Beethoven`s Piano Sonatas: A Short Companion*, Charles Rosen

*The Cambridge Companion to the Piano* by David Rowland, ed.,

*Chopin* (Master Musicians Series) by Jim Samson

*Chopin: Pianist and Teacher: As Seen by his Pupils* from Cambridge University Press

*Critical Entertainments: Music Old and New* by Charles Rosen

*Franz Liszt and His World* (The Bard Music Festival) by Princeton University Press

*The Glenn Gould Reader* by Tim Page

*The Great Pianists: From Mozart to Present by* Harold C. Schonberg

*Great Pianists on Piano Playing* by James Francis Cooke

*A History of Keyboard Literature: Music for the Piano and Its Forerunners* by Stewart Gordon

*Images: The Piano Music of Claude Debussy* by Paul Roberts

*Men, Women and Pianos: A Social History* by Arthur Loesser

*Mozart's Piano Music* by William Kinderman

*Music Sounded Out: Essays, Lectures, Interviews, Afterthoughts* by Alfred Brendel

*Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts* by Alfred Brendel

*My Life and Music* by Artur Schnabel

*Nineteenth Century Music* by R. Larry Todd

*Nineteenth-Century Piano Music* (Studies in Musical Genres and Repertories), Schirmer Books

*Piano Playing: with Piano Questions Answered*, by Josef Hofmann

*Rachmaninoff* (Illustrated Lives of the Great Composers) (Paperback) by Robert Walker (Author)

*Rachmaninoff* (Master Musicians Series) (Paperback) by Geoffrey Norris

*Reflections for the Keyboard: The World of the Concert Pianist* by David Dubal

*Sviataslav Richter: Notebooks and Conversations* by Bruno Monsaingeon