Graham School of General Studies

## 20th Century Music

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**Description:** Twentieth-century music is no longer “contemporary” music; it is becoming possible to put this complex and multifaceted century into context. We can now examine with reasonable objectiveness the influence and permanence of a diverse range of composers, from the once-radical (Schoenberg, Varese) to the once-reactionary (Rachmaninov, Copland) to the various “isms”: primitivism (Prokofiev, Orff), neoclassicism (Stravinsky, Les Six), minimalism, postminimalism, and neospirituality (Reich, Adams, Gorecki). Also included will be those figures defying classification, such as Shostakovich, Britten, Bartok, and Hindemith.

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| **Week** | **Biographical and Historical Themes** | **Featured Works** |
| 1 | Mahler and Strauss | Mahler: Symphonies 2, 6 *Das Lied von der Erde*  Strauss: *Salome* and *Elektra* |
| 2 | Debussy, Ravel, Satie, Milhaud | Debussy: *La Mer*; *Pelléas and Mélisande*  Ravel: *L'*enfant*et les sortilèges*  Saite: piano works  Milhaud: neoclassic and Brazilian works |
| 3 | Scriabin, Stravinsky, Messiaen | Scriabin: *Le Poème de l'extase*, Prometheus, Poem of Fire  Stravinsky: *Le Sacre du printemps*  Messiaen: *Vingt Regards* |
| 4 | Second Viennese School: Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Hindemith | Various works from each composer showing their styles. |
| 5 | American Century: Ives, Varèse, Copland | Ives: Concord Sonata  Varèse: *Amériques*  Copland: *Appalachian Spring* , Cowboy works |
| 6 | The Russians: Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich | Prokofiev: *Romeo and Juliet*; *War and Peace*  Shostakovich: Symphonies and Quartets  Rachmaninov: *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganinni;* Songs |
| 7 | Eastern Europe: Janáček, Kodály, Bartók | Janáček: *From the House of the Dead*  Kodály: various works  Bartók: Concertos, ballets, operas |
| 8 | Minimalism & Neospirituality: Glass, Reich, Adams, Pärt, Górecki | Glass: various works  Reich: *Different Trains*  Adams: various works including *Dr. Atomic*  Pärt: Berlin Mass  Górecki: Symphony No. 3: “Sorrowful Songs” |

**Recommended Books**

Taruskin, Richard: Oxford History of Western Music vol. 4-5

Ross, Alex: The Rest Is Noise

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| http://www.8notes.com/wiki/images/Mahler.jpg http://userserve-ak.last.fm/serve/_/54087893/Richard+Strauss++PNG.png http://www.notablebiographies.com/images/uewb_04_img0223.jpg |
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