

EXPLORING MUSIC with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Winter 2018

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-15**
RELEASE: **Week of January 1, 2018**

The Music of London, Part II

Week two of the music of London continues with visits from continental composers. Haydn's last twelve symphonies were inspired by London. Geminiani and Mendelssohn wrote music using material from their visits, and the German-born composer Handel spent most of his life in England. After the death of Handel, music of London went into a decline, until about one hundred years later, when the wandering minstrels Gilbert and Sullivan started engaging us with songs and snatches, and awakened London's creative spirit. We will listen to Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Holst, Britten, and Thomas Ades. Three cheers for the music of London and Nanki-Poo too!

PROGRAM#: **EXP 18-16**
RELEASE: **Week of January 8, 2018**

Emotion and Meaning in Music

Is music merely a collection of ordered pitches and vibrations in the air, or is there inherent and universal meaning contained within? Does music convey anger, longing, desire or humor? This week Bill delves into one of the most mysterious and fundamental qualities of music: its ability to convey emotion to the listener. Starting with Gil Shaham with the New York Philharmonic's performance of Samuel Barber's violin concerto, we will listen to Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and end the week with JS Bach's E minor Toccata. Bill asks us to listen carefully and ask ourselves, "what do we feel when we listen to this music and why?"

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-17**
RELEASE: **Week of January 15, 2018**

Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten's works can be edgy, or they can be warm and accessible. On Monday we learn about Britten's childhood, and the deep bond between him and his teacher, Frank Bridge. As the week continues, Bill introduces us to the influential people in his life, including Britten's lifelong partner, tenor Peter Pears. We will hear Pears sing with virtuoso horn player Dennis Brain in the Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings. On Friday, two slain soldiers from opposite sides meet in the underworld to sing "Libera Me" from the War Requiem. Then we sample some folksongs, and end on a bright note: Britten's how-to guide for young classical music listeners, The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-18**
RELEASE: **Week of January 22, 2018**

Mozart at his Zenith

Beginning in 1786 at the first hearing of Mozart's opera The Marriage of Figaro, we'll explore the stream of masterpieces, including operas, symphonies, piano concertos, and chamber works that Mozart wrote in

the last five years of his life. He was in his early thirties and navigating the political life of a court composer in Vienna while partying with the passion of the young man that he was, and all the while producing one masterpiece after another. On November 20, 1791, Mozart took to his bed, and still he brought in one of his protégés to write notes and phrases down. On December 5 Mozart died, with his requiem mass unfinished. From these years alone, Mozart left a body of work that expresses a universe of imagination and emotions.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-19**
RELEASE: **Week of January 29, 2018**

Czech Out Those Bohemians

Composers from the lands around the present-day Czech Republic have made an indelible mark on music. We'll examine their history and influence, from medieval times to the present, enjoying the music of Dvořák, Smetana, Suk, and the Benda family.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-20**
RELEASE: **Week of February 5, 2018**

César Franck

Join us for a week of music from César Franck. Born in 1822 in Liège, Franck moved to Paris in 1835 and died there in 1890. He was initially known as a gifted improviser on the organ - and considered by some to be the greatest composer of organ music after J. S. Bach - but over time we have come to understand the breadth of his skills as a pianist and teacher and composer. From his faculty post at the Paris Conservatoire to his lifelong position as organist and *maître de chapelle* at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde, Franck had an outsized influence on the music of 19th century Paris. Come enjoy music from Lalo, Chausson, and Delibes, and from Franck we'll get to savor his *Symphonic Variations* for piano and orchestra; the *Psyché*, symphonic poem for chorus and orchestra; his famous Violin Sonata in A; and of course the great D Minor Symphony.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-21**
RELEASE: **Week of February 12, 2018**

John Corigliano's 80th

Bill McGlaughlin welcomes one of America's foremost composers as Exploring Music's co-host and programmer. Corigliano, son of the longtime concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, has written many works that are now considered to be part of the standard repertoire for American violinists, clarinetists and orchestras. During the '80s, with the onslaught of AIDS deaths surrounding Corigliano, he expressed his profound loss in his Symphony No. 1 with a tarantella that evokes feelings of complete madness. This program celebrates Corigliano's 80th birthday (February 16).

PROGRAM #: **EXP 18-22**
RELEASE: **Week of February 19, 2018**

Carnegie Hall, Part I

Bill joins Gino Francesconi, director of Carnegie Hall's Archives and Rose Museum, to take listeners backstage for an intimate view of the hall, its history, and the legendary performers who have appeared there. From the world premiere of Dvorak's *New World Symphony* in 1893, to U.S. debuts by Jascha

Heifetz, Igor Stravinsky, and Béla Bartók, to appearances by artists and activists who challenged racial restrictions and the political status quo, including Paul Robeson, Mahalia Jackson, Bob Dylan, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Beatles, and Leontyne Price, Carnegie Hall has long been a platform for social and artistic change that have challenged conventions.

PROGRAM #: EXP 18-23
RELEASE: Week of February 26, 2018

Carnegie Hall, Part II

Bill and Carnegie Hall's Archivist Gino Francesconi continue touring backstage for a view of the three concert venues, the hall's history, and the legendary performers who have appeared there. Carnegie Hall has been the stage for thousands of premieres from all genres of music and spoken word. We will listen to artists' stories and hear some of the great ones like Ella Fitzgerald and Leonard Bernstein who have graced its stage.

PROGRAM #: EXP 18-24
RELEASE: Week of March 5, 2018

Intimate Voices: Conversations with Samuel Rhodes and David Finckel

This week Bill has conversations with two chamber musicians with over 100 years of great music-making experiences between them: Samuel Rhodes, former violist of the Juilliard Quartet, and David Finckel, former cellist of the Emerson Quartet and co-Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Rhodes describes the musical dialogues exchanged by the Juilliard Quartet, and we will listen to them performing Ravel, Carter, and Brahms. Then Bill turns to Finckel, who tells us about his admiration for violinist Oscar Shumsky and German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. The Emerson and Juilliard quartets will both play music of Bartok for us. Lastly, Finckel will describe the devastation that lies deep within Shostakovich's string quartets.

PROGRAM #: EXP 18-25
RELEASE: Week of March 12, 2018

Leoš Janáček

One of the most influential (and underrated) Czech composers, Leoš Janáček created a deeply original style of composition that infused his operas, string quartets, and symphonic music with Moravian and Slavic folk influences. We start this week listening to his charming intimate Nursery Rhymes, *White Goat Gathers Pears* and *Beetroot Was Getting Married*, performed by The Netherlands Wind Ensemble. Each hour of the week continues with a wonderful sample of Janáček's works handpicked by Bill McGlaughlin.

PROGRAM #: EXP 18-26
RELEASE: Week of March 19, 2018

Felix Mendelssohn

German composer Felix Mendelssohn finds himself at the center of this week's episode of Exploring Music. He has been hailed as one of the greatest musical minds of all time. We venture from his precocious youth to his early death. His great body of work is still in the repertoires of chamber groups

and orchestras. And it's the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto that is loved by all. The same love and devotion is true for his String Octet and *Italian Symphony*.