

EXPLORING MUSIC with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Spring 2019

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-28**
RELEASE: **Week of April 1, 2019**

The Ballad of East and West

“OH, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet...When two strong men stand face to face, tho’ they come from the ends of the earth!” -Rudyard Kipling.

Borrowing this week's title from the Rudyard Kipling poem "The Ballad of East and West," we'll explore the music of Asia. Traveling to Japan, China, and elsewhere, we will listen to instruments, sounds, folk tunes and poetry. The sounds that are the unique musical voices that define a country's identity, tunes that are shared in common, and many melodies and sounds that are borrowed by western composers.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-29**
RELEASE: **Week of April 8, 2019**

The Symphony Part XIII: Symphonic Music During World War II

Spend a profound week with some haunting, powerful, and peaceful symphonies from the years around World War II. Beginning in 1939 with the first symphony of Darius Milhaud and concluding with Aaron Copland's third symphony from 1946, which includes the iconic "Fanfare for the Common Man." Along the way we'll hear the ninth symphony of Dmitri Shostakovich, written in 1945 and the last of his "war trilogy" symphonies, and two pieces with text from the Latin mass — Benjamin Britten's "Sinfonia da Requiem" and Howard Hanson's Symphony #4. And we'll contrast the power of the sixth symphony of Roy Harris, which he dedicated to the memory of the American armed forces, with the pastoral serenity of Vaughan Williams fifth symphony.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-30**
RELEASE: **Week of April 15, 2019**

Bach's Not-So-Minor B Minor Mass

“There's so much that's mysterious about Bach's Mass,” Bill says, and this week he attempts to demystify Bach's grand work by setting its context in history, tracing relevant antecedents: Bach was writing a Latin mass despite his orientation as a Lutheran. Bill surmises that Bach went back to his musical heroes from the Renaissance. “They composed masses in Latin, and so would he.” Bill illustrates pertinent influences in Beethoven, Strauss, and Haydn as well as how Bach reformed some of his own work to inform his mass.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-31**
RELEASE: **Week of April 22, 2019**

Cello Concertos

“What a sound the cello makes!” Bill opines. The cello started to gain popularity in the 17th and early 18th centuries when it was found to be very good at accompanying singers at the opera, such as Bach cantatas. And it became the vehicle for numerous great and famous compositions in many different settings: by Haydn, Prokofiev, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Villa-Lobos and others. Bill of course includes Elgar’s Cello Concerto in the mix to make the week a triumph for what used to be considered an unwieldy instrument.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-32**
RELEASE: **Week of April 29, 2019**

Marlboro Music

Each summer in Vermont, the sign that greets everyone coming to Marlboro Music is "Caution: Musicians at Play." A BBC journalist said, if there were a banner across the entrance, it should say "Espressivo." These two signs— the actual and the imagined— describe the musical experiences at Marlboro. Artistic director Mitsuko Uchida explained to Bill that Marlboro, founded in 1951, has a historic link that goes back directly to composers of the Second Viennese School, to Brahms, and all the way to Mozart and Haydn. Exploring Music’s visit this summer reminded us of Mozart’s spirit when he dedicated six quartets to Papa Haydn: “Please... receive them kindly and be to them a father, guide, and friend!” Listen for this spirit of entrusting and sharing chamber music with this multi-generational family of Marlboro Music.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-33**
RELEASE: **Week of May 6, 2019**

Wunderkinder - Musical Prodigies, Part I

Blazing talents whose remarkable and sometimes-perilous lives overflowed with natural gifts at a young age, and audiences couldn’t get enough of them. Starting with compositions by Mozart and Mendelssohn, all played by today’s whiz kids. We continue with Niccolò Paganini performed by violinist Julia Fischer, and by violinist Julian Sitkovetsky with his mother, Bella Davidovich, accompanying him on the piano. Bill ends the week with a full hour devoted to Frédéric Chopin performed by some of the great prodigy-pianists of today— Maurizio Pollini, Garrick Ohlsson, and Frederic Chiu. Bill says when these musicians were children they were like gifts from above.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-34**
RELEASE: **Week of May 13, 2019**

Wunderkinder - Musical Prodigies, Part II

More performers and composers whose exceptional musical gifts emerged at an early age are our subject this week. It’s amazing to think that many of these musicians, like Mendelssohn, are still best known today for works that they composed in their early teens. Conductor Eugene Ormandy

said that all his violinists were prodigies, so we end the week with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* played by the entire first and second violin sections of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Please enjoy this week of wunderkinder playing the works of wunderkinder.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-35**
RELEASE: **Week of May 20, 2019**

Dvorák, Tchaikovsky & Borodin String Quartets

Our multiple-part series tracing the evolution of the string quartet continues with magnificent works from Antonin Dvořák, Peter Tchaikovsky, and Alexander Borodin. During the 1870s and 1880s, well into the Romantic period, string quartets were falling by the wayside for a lot of composers, but a few managed to slip through the fabric of time and tell stories just as wondrous as the great Romantic tone poems that were popular at the time. Many of these unique quartets have become calling cards for these three composers.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-36**
RELEASE: **Week of May 27, 2019**

Let Me Tell You A Story, Part I

Composers telling us stories. Franz Schubert died asking for more of James Fenimore Cooper's novels like *The Last of the Mohicans*. We can only imagine that Schubert was looking for more musical inspiration from stories of forbidden love caught in the crosshairs of the French and Indian War. The next weeks will not feature just tone poems, operas, or Shakespeare, but music inspired by all sorts of poems and books.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-37**
RELEASE: **Week of June 3, 2019**

Let Me Tell You A Story, Part II

More music from composers telling us stories. From Otto Nicolai's overture to the Merry Wives of Windsor based on Shakespeare's play to Cole Porter singing Anything Goes from his 1934 hit musical. Stories told and feelings expressed through music go far back in history and to the core of our human spirit.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-38**
RELEASE: **Week of June 10, 2019**

The Spanish School

Borrowing our title from the storied Spanish Riding School in Vienna, home of the Lipizzaner horses, this program explores the wealth of musical output from Iberian composers. Following a lineage from the 18th century on to those creating new music today, we consider the Spanish School as a living tradition, blending the values of the past with the passion of the present. From

the guitar to the piano and every instrument in between, this week features selections from Pablo de Sarasate, Andres Segovia, and many other Spanish composers and performers.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-39**
RELEASE: **Week of June 17, 2019**

Ports of Call, Part I

For the next two weeks, Exploring Music will present sounds from composers' backyards and hear their journaling voyages to distant lands: from the bird calls in the Amazon jungle expressed by Brazilian composers, to the distant bells ringing as a composer approaches a safe harbor. Listen, for example, to Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's famous Pines of Rome, and then travel with him to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he wrote Brazilian Impressions, an orchestral suite with strange and beautiful sounds.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 19-40**
RELEASE: **Week of June 24, 2019**

Ports of Call, Part II

This week Exploring Music continues traveling with composers around the world. Listen to them express the sounds of their native land and paint musical pictures of their travels. We will hear music of homesick George Gershwin in Paris, Charles Ives floating down the Housatonic River in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, and Ella Fitzgerald and her friends on the "A" train in New York City.