

EXPLORING MUSIC with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Fall Quarter 2020

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-01
RELEASE: Week of October 5, 2020

Leon Fleisher

This week on Exploring Music, we celebrate the life of Leon Fleisher, the man Pierre Monteux called “the pianistic find of the century.” In 2018 Bill sat down with him on the campus of Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, where he taught for fifty years. Leon reminisced on his childhood in San Francisco, his studies with Artur Schnabel, his health struggle which for decades robbed him of the full use of his right hand, and his triumphant return to two-handed repertoire. Our journey is accompanied by the music of Brahms, Beethoven, Ravel, Mozart, Britten, Copland, Kirchner, and a lovely arrangement of Jerome Kern’s “All the Things You Are.”

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-02
RELEASE: Week of October 12, 2020

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’s performance of Samuel Barber’s Violin Concerto with the New York Philharmonic, we’ll also listen to Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring* and end the week with a JS Bach toccata. Bill asks us to listen and ask ourselves, “What do we feel when we listen to this music and why?”

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-03
RELEASE: Week of October 19, 2020

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Firmly poised on the progressive side of the War of the Romantics, Liszt was on the front lines of the battle to usher in a new musical era: an era of radical dissonances, thematic transformation, and exceptional virtuosity. This week, we’ll spend five hours listening to Liszt’s music and life story. Some of his music is so familiar, like his Hungarian Rhapsodies, that you will find yourself humming along, while other works you may enjoy discovering.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-04
RELEASE: Week of October 26, 2020

Orchestral Heroes

This week Bill explores a request from a listener in Philadelphia, who would like to hear solos and concerti from different members of the symphony orchestra. Bill feels orchestras are one of the great creations of humankind. One hundred musicians artfully blend together, but each instrumentalist has their own personality and spirit. Bill creates a fantastic playlist of clarinet, horn, oboe, violin and even saxophone solos played by our favorite orchestral heroes. We'll end the week with Ravel's Bolero, where every instrument gets to shine.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-05**
RELEASE: **Week of November 2, 2020**

An Intelligent Conversation: The String Quartet

Goethe once wrote, "When I listen to a string quartet, it makes me feel as if I am eavesdropping on a conversation between four intelligent people." This week we are going to listen to string quartets composed over a period of about two and a half centuries, from Joseph Haydn, the father of the string quartet, to Aaron Jay Kernis, a Pulitzer prize-winning present-day composer.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-06**
RELEASE: **Week of November 9, 2020**

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

For some, Copland conjures images of covered wagons and endless frontiers. For others, he evokes Olympic athletes, astronauts, and fallen heroes. From waves of grain to stars and stripes, Copland defined the soundtrack to everything American. This week, we'll trace his trek from the heart of Brooklyn to the heart of a nation. Featured works include *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid*, and Copland himself conducting the London Symphony Orchestra in *Our Town*.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-07**
RELEASE: **Week of November 16, 2020**

Les Cinq Plus

This week's theme: French composers from the generation before Les Six (Poulenc, Milhaud, Honegger, et al), and we are fondly calling our composers Les Cinq Plus. Like Les Six, our composers did not have a great deal in common, and the way they have been grouped is a historical accident — artists who happened to inhabit a particular locale at a given time. A few of these composers shared some characteristic traits, but they were incidental, and the artists didn't even care much for each other. Unlike Les Six, Les Cinq Plus grew up listening to the art songs of the 1800s, and each in their way carried this romantic torch forward: Chabrier, Massenet, Duparc, Chausson, Dukas, and perhaps Satie as "L'Autre."

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-08
RELEASE: Week of November 23, 2020

American Masters, Part IV

From the east coast to the west, American composers developed a singular identity in the 20th century that continues to energize and influence classical music. This week is dedicated to less popular American composers like John Alden Carpenter, Marion Bauer, and Randall Thompson. Bill investigates their family history, what drove them to compose, and what artistic journey they went on to expand music during their time. Join Bill for a trip to sample everything from Carpenter's wonky ballet *Krazy Cat* to Thompson's choral takes on the poetry of Robert Frost.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-09
RELEASE: Week of November 30, 2020

The Violin Concerto

There is a saying in much of eastern Europe, "Every child is born with a violin under their pillow". Parents dream of their child becoming a great violinist, not a doctor or a lawyer as so many do in America. Most composers have written at least one violin concerto hoping to challenge the soloist while creating a work of beauty. We will listen to many of today's most popular concertos by Beethoven, Mozart, Sibelius, and Tchaikovsky, and to Bill tell the stories of some concertos that were originally rejected by the soloists as being technically unplayable.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-10
RELEASE: Week of December 7, 2020

Vienna, Part I

A two-week exploration of the rich culture of Vienna, this great musical capital commonly referred to as the City of Music. Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven all made their way to Vienna, where they developed and deepened their art. Then along came Franz Schubert, who was actually born in Vienna, and many other composers also found their way to Vienna, including Brahms from up north. And, of course, this is the city of the waltz with Johann Strauss Jr. and Joseph Lanner.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-11
RELEASE: Week of December 14, 2020

Vienna, Part II

We continue our exploration of one of the world's great musical capitals with the brilliant Romantic composers, the renegades of the last century and beyond. Bill starts us walking in the footsteps of Mozart in 1788 and continues with Beethoven, and then on to Johann Strauss II, Gustav Mahler, and Arnold Schoenberg. This music has a fierce beauty that evokes the history, architectural wonder, and intimate coffee houses of Vienna —our city of music.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-12**
RELEASE: **Week of December 21, 2020**

Dona Nobis Pacem - Grant Us Peace

Recently, Bill was staying at a beautiful little home up in the Oak Forest in Massachusetts, near the Connecticut River. There had been tremendous thunderstorms through the night, but when he awoke, on that Sunday morning, the sun was shining and the birds were singing. The humidity was low and his spirits were high — it was a beautiful morning. He thought what we need in the world is more days of peace and joy. So, this is a whole week with music about peace, and we borrow the title, *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)*, from the Latin Mass. Music has a way of reaching deep inside each of us to bring peace, to nourish and comfort our own souls. We hope that you find some peace in our selections including works by Bach, Byrd, Grieg, Schubert, and we will hear Ella Fitzgerald sing one of her favorite songs, "Angel Eyes".

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-13**
RELEASE: **Week of Dec. 28, 2020**

You and the Night and the Music

Novelists who have built their plots around great music. Join us as we step inside the minds of authors groping for the words to describe the feelings and emotions of the music. We begin with an inspiring mandolin, and the letters of T.S. Eliot. In Thursday's program Bill tells the story of a violin maker and part-time sleuth with a nostalgic longing for Bach. Dvorák falls in love and an author reminisces about his father's final journey with Beethoven. We end our travels through literature and music with a dream of the devil and E.M. Forster's vision of Beethoven from *Howard's End*.