Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin

Broadcast Schedule – Winter Quarter 2021

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-14

RELEASE: Week of January 4, 2021

A Guitar Fest

A Guitar Fest on Exploring Music! The inspiration for this week came from a listener responding to Bill McGlaughlin's call for new program ideas. This listener wrote that he would like to see one or more shows dedicated to Andrés Segovia and went on to say, "Of all musicians I have known, no one dominated the field as he did. Almost singlehandedly, he converted the guitar from a plaything to a concert instrument. Several composers dedicated their works to him. The thrill of my life was to be his dinner companion at his last (or maybe also first) performance in Columbus at the Ohio Theatre in the late 1970s. An amazing artist, and an unforgettable man!" So, this week, Andrés Segovia and others will perform guitar works from around the world including works by JS Bach, Villa-Lobos, Albéniz, and Bouwer.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-15

RELEASE: Week of January 11, 2021

Giuseppe Verdi, Part 1

This week we begin a ten-part series investigating the life and music of Giuseppe Verdi, a towering figure in Italian art and perhaps the greatest composer of 19th-century opera. We'll explore the nooks and crannies of Verdi's repertoire, including a trip to Medieval Spain, Shakespeare's Scotland, and France. Despite Verdi being known for his work in opera, an art form intimately connected with language, his music transcends words. To end our first week on Verdi, we will listen to his overtures and as Bill would say, "Man, that boy wrote a lot of music!"

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-16

RELEASE: Week of January 18, 2021

Giuseppe Verdi, Part 2

Join us for the second part of our two-week series featuring Verdi with more of his operas and other works, both iconic and underappreciated. Verdi takes on musical expressions of Italian painters, Egyptian princesses, and composes perhaps the grandest requiem ever written. According to legend, at Verdi's funeral a hundred thousand voices rose in song as Toscanini conducted the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from his opera *Nabucco*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-17

RELEASE: Week of January 25, 2021

Triple Play

It's trios on Exploring Music! Piano trios, string trios, operatic trios and many others. Trios have their own set of challenges for composers and performers, and this week Bill will demonstrate on the piano pointing out to us their complex harmonic structures. We will hear Beethoven's Triple Concerto, the trio from Act III of *Der Rosenkavalier* and, finally Bill will play a wonderful treat from *Porgy and Bess* performed by the Bill Evans Trio. Join us for a delightful week of music for three, where the odd man is not left out.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-18

RELEASE: Week of February 1, 2021

Invitation to the Dance, Part I

Which came first, the composition or the dance? Can we even pull them apart? It's hard to say, but this week we'll follow the dance through solo works, the opera, and the symphony. Highlights include gigues, gavottes, waltzes and galliards from John Dowland, JS Bach, Haydn, Mozart. We dance out the week with Shostakovich's *Tahiti Trot*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-19

RELEASE: Week of February 8, 2021

Great Choral Works, More Often Praised Than Listened To

Part of the fun with Exploring Music is making up titles for our various weeks. Bill came up with an outstanding doozy—Great Choral Works, More Often Praised Than Listened To— but not this week! We'll hear St. Paul and Elijah, two huge oratorios written ten years apart by Felix Mendelssohn; A Sea Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and a beautiful setting of Walt Whitman's When Lilacs Last in the Door Yard Bloomed by Paul Hindemith. It's a special treat to hear Robert Shaw, Sir Andrew Davis, and others, lead a stage full of a large orchestra, chorus, and soloists through these profound masterworks.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-20

RELEASE: Week of February 15, 2021

Nationalism in Music

Nationalism on its own can be a dangerous force, but it has inspired a number of profound pieces of music. This edition of Exploring Music examines what happens when a powerful pride in national identity enters a composer's head. Bill starts by reading an excerpt from an essay about the history of nationalism in music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, who identifies Chopin as the first composer to write nationalistic music with his polonaises and mazurkas. From Poland we wander through 20th century Europe: the Czech Republic, Rumania, Hungary, France, Scandinavia, Russia, and Albion.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-21

RELEASE: Week of February 22, 2021

The Symphony, Part 8

This week, Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Vaughan Williams will be featured, continuing our massive series in examining symphony compositions. The symphony is widely considered one of the most important forms of classical music. Our exploration this week continues with music from composers born around 1880.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-22

RELEASE: Week of March 1, 2021

Anton Bruckner

The latest installment in our series of composer biographies presents the 19th century Austrian, Anton Bruckner. We'll explore his work and his life, from his childhood in a small farming village outside Linz to his final decades in Vienna. Bruckner was a devoted Roman Catholic who spent years as a chorister at the Monastery of St. Florian, and later served as the cathedral organist in Linz, where he established a reputation for his improvisatory skills. He was often dragged into the wrong side of critical debates on the evolving course of music, and in his lifetime his status never rose to the level it has today. Join us as we explore his works from new perspectives, and consider for yourself Bruckner's place in the classical music canon.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-23

RELEASE: Week of March 8, 2021

The Beethoven Piano Sonatas

Pathétique. Moonlight. Appassionata. Hammerklavier. Ludwig van Beethoven wrote his first piano sonata at the age of 25 and his last at the age of 52, and together these 32 sonatas have been called "The New Testament" of music. Artur Schnabel was the first pianist to record a complete set and since then this feat has been reached by Daniel Barenboim, Alfred Brendel, Claude Frank, Maurizio Pollini, and Claudio Arrau – twice! This week we'll sample as many as we possibly can that captivate us in some special way, and we hope you will share in our wonder and amazement at Beethoven's Piano Sonatas.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-24

RELEASE: Week of March 15, 2021

Shh, It a Secret: Musical Cryptograms

Musicians have long been told that their minds are similar to those of mathematicians. This week we'll discover and decipher codes, messages and meanings that have been hidden within pieces of classical music over the centuries. Some of these messages were encoded for the fun of the puzzle, while others held deep painful meanings.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-25

RELEASE: Week of March 22, 2021

Strangers in a Strange Land

We will hear the musical evolution of five mature composers as they started their new lives in America: Russian Igor Stravinsky, Hungarian Bela Bartok, German Kurt Weill, Italian Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and Austrian Ernst Toch. These five composers arrived in America early in the Twentieth Century and quickly became vital members of our American musical community. They composed for, performed with, and taught many of our greatest musicians. Bill enjoys leading us through their developing new sounds and relationships, all the while telling the fantastic stories that links us to their teachers, like Rimsky-Korsakov, and Richard Strauss, with vivid descriptions of the 1920s in Paris, New York, and Vienna.

PROGRAM #: EXP 20-26

RELEASE: Week of March 29, 2021

How Strange the Change from Major to Minor, Part I

"There's no love song finer, but how strange the change from major to minor." - Cole Porter — This two-week series comes from a listener who wrote asking about the different scales in Western music. You may know of major and minor scales, and hear the change of mood that composers can achieve by transitioning between them, but there are five other scales, or modes, we hear all the time. You can hear modal shifts in works by Monteverdi and in the late symphonies of Beethoven, Schubert, and many more. Come with us and explore the vibrant palette of colors that composers can use to set and change moods. How strange the change?