

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Spring Quarter 2021

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-27**
RELEASE: **Week of April 5, 2021**

How Strange the Change from Major to Minor, Part II

When our listener wrote asking Bill to describe the different scales and modes in music, he said a week ought to do it. Bill quickly realized that a week ought NOT to do it, and two weeks were better! So, this week we continue listening to music change from major to minor, plus harmonic surprises that composers add to their music. This same listener goes on to say, “What classical music buff wouldn't find that interesting and entertaining, and what classical music neophyte wouldn't find that enlightening?” He’s right, come listen with fresh new ears to Franz Schubert, Gustav Mahler, plus favorite folk songs and jazz standards.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-28**
RELEASE: **Week of April 12, 2021**

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Bill welcomes us to a weeklong look at the life and music of Carl Nielsen, who rose from humble beginnings to one of Denmark’s most prominent composers. A remarkably original and appealing composer, he wrote in every genre – chamber music, concerti, operas, piano music, and composed six symphonies. We will hear Nielsen’s orchestration of Danish folk tunes, his popular woodwind quintet, and Danny Kaye singing “Wonderful Copenhagen!”

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-29**
RELEASE: **Week of April 19, 2021**

Caucasian Sketches: From the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea

On a clear day, when you stand on top of Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus Mountains, you can see from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, and it’s this area that is the center of Bill’s musical exploration. This week’s journey starts in Armenia and Azerbaijan, continues through Georgia and Ukraine, and ends on the western banks of the Black Sea. Baroque composers to musicians of the present day, each telling a musical story of the people between Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Our composers include Giya Kancheli, Aram Khachaturian, and Richard Yardumian.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-30**
RELEASE: **Week of April 26, 2021**

The World of the Virtuoso

What distinguishes a virtuoso from a merely great musician? This week we feature these musicians who had it all. We start in the 16th century with the development of violin and keyboard instruments that brought the rise of the virtuoso. Generations of musicians forever challenged and one-upped those who led the way, playing concertos to delight us. Join Bill as he follows his ear through the centuries from Sephardic composer Thomas Lupo, played by violinist Andrew Manze, through Niccolò Paganini performed by Michael Rabin, to the present day with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra playing the *Octet for Wind Instruments* by Igor Stravinsky.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-31**
RELEASE: **Week of May 3, 2021**

From the Mountains to the Sea

Sweeping expansive music that expresses the breadth of land and seascapes, with a sense of coming together to where these elements touch each other—land meeting water, mountain stretching to heavens above, and distant horizons where oceans and skies blend. We'll journey to islands with fiery volcanoes and molten earth, and in the quiet of the night sit on soft grass in front of a bonfire, and listen to their music. This image brings together many genres: symphonies and folksongs from the hills of Appalachia, ballads of conquering heroes and lost souls. We will hear the music of Liszt, Strauss, Moeran, and forgotten composers we call Traditional and Anonymous.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-32**
RELEASE: **Week of May 10, 2021**

Top Shelf, Part I

Closing in on twenty years, Bill has been collecting and programming music for Exploring Music. However, many of his favorite recordings don't find their way into a thematic week of EM and end up orphaned on a top shelf in his back room. These are special recordings that wait and wait for the right theme, and it begins to feel like they become a character in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*. So, this week Bill pulled down these CDs and they became the theme – colorful, great performances of music that Bill adores.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-33**
RELEASE: **Week of May 17, 2021**

Sir William Walton (1902-1983)

Composer Benjamin Britten once wrote that hearing William Walton's music was a "great turning point in his musical life." We'll trace the arc of Walton's life and his associations with the greatest artists of his time, including Heifetz, Hindemith, Olivier, and Beecham. Bill features Walton's love of different musical genres; Film music from *Henry V*, the poem *Façade* set to music performed by the London Mozart Players narrated by Prunella Scales (Sybil from BBC's *Fawlty Towers*), the orchestral march *Crown Imperial*, the cantata *Belshazzar's Feast*, and his

viola concerto, which is studied and performed by all serious violists. This is a week steeped in British music of the 20th century.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-34
RELEASE: Week of May 24, 2021

Mozart Piano Concertos

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart breaks a concerto tradition in his Piano Concerto No. 9, known as the *Jeunehomme Concerto*, with his placement of a piano solo near the opening of the piece. Mozart wrote countless concertos, many of which are sprightly and elegant to the ear, even at the fingers of an eight-year-old. While exploring various sounds into his teens, Mozart was so heavily inspired by Johann Christian Bach's writing that he reinterpreted it, making it his own. Bach and Mozart bonded over music, as well as over tricky keyboard games.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-35
RELEASE: Week of May 31, 2021

American Masters, Part VI: American Composers from the age of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon

Our first episodes begin at the turn of the 20th century, and over the years we have worked our way to composers who were active in the time of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and beyond. You'll hear all the usual suspects (Copland, Gershwin, Stravinsky, and Schoenberg), but we'll also weave in beautiful and intriguing music from Peter Menin, Augustus Hailstork, Charles Wuorinen, Joan Tower, Charlie Parker, and, yes, Fats Domino. We'll end the week with an elegiac symphonic work from George Walker, the first African American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-36
RELEASE: Week of June 7, 2021

Top Shelf, Part II

Here Bill returns to his collection of treasured albums from his library's top shelf. Recordings that Bill has yet to fit into one of our weekly themes, like *Music from Vienna*, or *Ports of Call*. He has decided to bring them down off the shelf and create a whole week out of these beautiful, interesting CDs performed by artists that Bill has followed for years. French hornist William Purvis with Mihae Lee performs Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestucke Op.73*. The Cypress String Quartet will play the first movement of Beethoven Op. 59 No. 1 (Rasumovsky), and we conclude this week with Chopin's *Prelude No. 13 in F-Sharp, Op. 28* performed by Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires.

PROGRAM #: EXP 21-37
RELEASE: Week of June 14, 2021

The Music of London, Part 1

Join Bill for a two-week musical history tour of London. We will listen to medieval chant, folksongs, and court composers. Bill will stroll the South Bank, now a rejuvenated part of London, and formerly home to brothels, bear fighting arenas, plus Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Artists of all times and disciplines wandered this district, with a bird's-eye view of St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster. During the English Reformation, Anglican Chant developed with the decree that all chants were to be in English, adhering to the cadence of the spoken word. We will listen to Thomas Tallis, court composer to Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth, hear Purcell and Elgar carry his English sound into their compositions, and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, based on a psalm that starts, "Why fumeth in fight."

PROGRAM #: **EXP 21-38**
RELEASE: **Week of June 21, 2021**

The Music of London, Part 2

Week two of the music of London continues with visits from continental composers. Haydn's last 12 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 21-39**
RELEASE: **Week of June 28, 2021**

Schubert String Quartets

Bill continues his in-depth look at the string quartet's history with the music of Franz Schubert. His quartets are unique and remarkable. From his early teens, Schubert loved composing quartets with surprising key relationships and complicated rhythms. These "tone puzzles" can be heard within quartet movements and throughout the complete piece. On Friday's program Bill adds an extra cello to feature Schubert's final chamber work, the String Quintet in C Major. This "Cello Quintet" was composed just a few months before Schubert's death.