Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin

Broadcast Schedule – Spring 2023

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-27

RELEASE: Week of April 3, 2023

Bach's Not-So-Minor B Minor Mass

"There's so much that is 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 relevant influences in Beethoven, Strauss, and Haydn as well as how Bach reformed some of his own work to inform his mass.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-28

RELEASE: Week of April 10, 2023

Stormy Weather

We don't know why there's no sun up in the sky, but we do know that this week of exploring stormy music will delight us all. We'll see double rainbows with Antonio Carlos Jobim, hear Debussy's "Footsteps in the Snow" and "Gardens in the Rain," and listen to settings of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, also we'll hear Frank Bridge, Benjamin Britten, Richard Wagner, and Percy Grainger each at sea. We'll take a mule ride into the Grand Canyon with Ferde Grofé and hear about the weather from Handel, Beethoven, Hovhaness, and Harold Arlen. Antonio Vivaldi will show us all the seasons, and we'll ride a storm with Jim Morrison and The Doors.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-29

RELEASE: Week of April 17, 2023

Beethoven at Parnassus, Part I

This is a festival of the late music of Beethoven, music from the last ten years of his life. Parnassus refers to the great mountain in Greece that towers over Delphi and is the home of the Muses. In these years from 1816 to 1826, Beethoven soared to almost mythological heights with some of his greatest works—the Ninth Symphony, the last four piano sonatas, *Missa Solemnis*, and his final string quartets. All these compositions still sit at the top of Mt. Parnassus.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-30

RELEASE: Week of April 24, 2023

Beethoven at Parnassus, Part II

In the second part of a two-week series, we'll take an in-depth look at this music of a master reaching the pinnacle of his abilities. Bill starts with *Missa Solemnis* and *Consecration of the House* and ends in the rarified atmosphere of Mt. Parnassus as we take in Opus 135 performed by the Guarneri Quartet. Robert Schumann said, "[Beethoven's quartets] stand...on the extreme boundary of all that has hitherto been attained by human art and imagination." In 1977 his quartets were added to the *Time Capsule of Humanity* and sent into space in Voyager 1.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-31

RELEASE: Week of May 1, 2023

Some of My Best Friends Are Virtuosi

Over the decades that Bill has conducted orchestras and hosted radio programs, he feels very fortunate to have worked with and become friends with many prominent musicians. In this program, Bill will feature some of these virtuosic musicians whom he has watched grow and admired for many years. To highlight this warm spirit of musical friendships, Bill has chosen many works that composers have written for their best friends, who also happen to be virtuosi. Five hours of gorgeous rich tones and great melodies like Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* played by pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, Brahms' Clarinet Quintet featuring the Pacifica Quartet and their friend Anthony McGill, and Chopin's Cello Sonata with pianist Garrick Ohlsson accompanying cellist Carter Brey.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-32

RELEASE: Week of May 8, 2023

TBA

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-33

RELEASE: Week of May 15, 2023

Nadia Boulanger

"Every town in the United States had a five-and-dime and a Boulanger student," Virgil Thomson once said, and he wasn't far off. Nadia Boulanger taught and influenced an entire generation of musicians, from Aaron Copland and Ástor Piazzolla to Philip Glass and Quincy Jones, and this week we'll hear some of her compositions and performances alongside those of her prolific students.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-34

RELEASE: Week of May 22, 2023

TBA

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-35

RELEASE: Week of May 29, 2023

Edward Elgar

There's much more to Edward Elgar than graduation marches and the *Enigma Variations*. A composer of equally masterful symphonies, oratorios, chamber music, and concertos, he led a renaissance in 20th-century England that firmly reestablished its musical identity. Don't miss the last installment of the week when Bill features the "English Rose," Jacqueline Du Pre in her legendary performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-36

RELEASE: Week of June 5, 2023

American Masters, Part I

The first week in our series exploring great but lesser-known American composers: all born in the last decade of the 19th century. These are composers whose names are not Ellington, Gershwin, Copland, Barber, or Bernstein — Howard Hanson from Wahoo, Nebraska; Walter Piston from Rockland, Maine; William Grant Still born in Woodville, Mississippi; and Ruth Crawford Seeger born in East Liverpool, Ohio. This week of Exploring Music is full of many beautiful works that you will enjoy.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-37

RELEASE: Week of June 12, 2023

The Class of 1809: Six composers born over a five-year period 1809 - 1813

Our six extraordinary composers are Felix Mendelssohn, born February 3, 1809; Frederic Chopin, March 3, 1810; Robert Schumann, June 8, 1810; Franz Liszt, October 22, 1811; Richard Wagner, May 22, 1813; and Giuseppe Verdi, October 10, 1813. 1809 also brought the death of Papa Haydn and the birth of Abraham Lincoln, plus Beethoven wrote Les Adieux "Farewell," and the *Emperor Concerto* for his friend and sponsor, Archduke Rudolf. This is the time of the Battle of Wagram, after which the Austrian nobility withdrew to safer realms as Napoleon closed in on Vienna. Starting in 1809, the 19th century opens up, and we'll follow our six composers to Verdi's death in 1901.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-38

RELEASE: Week of June 19, 2023

Beethoven and the Piano

Beethoven had only written five piano concertos in his life - the first at the age of 13, and the last at 39. These concertos are majestic, daring, and diverse, considered part of the classical piano canon to this day. One can see Beethoven's transition from a Classical to a Romantic style when they are placed side by side. In fact, side by side is exactly how we will be listening to these wonderful concerti this week. Join us for one Beethoven piano concerto a day, plus some of his more intimate works for the instrument, played by the likes of Leon Fleisher, Murray Perahia, and Martha Argerich.

PROGRAM #: EXP 23-39

RELEASE: Week of June 26, 2023

Soundtracks

Since the beginning of cinematography classical music has been there to enhance the narrative and drama of the silver screen. For the next five days, we will listen to the soundtracks composed for the films E.T., Zorba the Greek, and Robin Hood, plus many more film scores composed by illustrious composers of the 20^{th} century.