

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Fall 2024

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-01
RELEASE: Week of October 2, 2023

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

This week begins our 20th season of Exploring Music! To celebrate, we are revisiting our very first program: the intriguing life and art of French composer Maurice Ravel. Ravel blended his Swiss-Basque heritage as well as early 20th-century jazz to create a unique compositional voice. He clashed with teachers at the Paris Conservatory yet maintained his instincts in the modernity of visual art, dance, and literature—all affected by World War I. Bill will feature the String Quartet in F Major, *Rapsodie Espangole-Malagueña* for two pianos, and the one-movement orchestral composition, *Boléro*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-02
RELEASE: Week of October 9, 2023

Outward Bound

Afoot and lighthearted, Bill takes to the open road with the world before him. In the steps of Walt Whitman, he explores the relationship of man to nature, as expressed in music. We start this week with Bryn Terfel singing “The Vagabond,” with the words of Robert Lewis Stevenson set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Bill will then “inhale great drafts of space” with Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony, Strauss’ *Alpine Symphony*, and Villa-Lobos’ *Bachianas Brasileiras*. Join us on this colorful musical path.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-03
RELEASE: Week of October 16, 2023

A Keyboard Smörgåsbord

It’s a lot more than just pianos! We’ll follow the story of the musical keyboard, from the ancient Greeks all the way to synthesizers, examining music for many different types— clavichords, harpsichords, fortepianos, organs, harmoniums, accordions, dulcimers, cimbaloms, melodicas, and mallet instruments from Java to jazz. This is a large and interesting family!

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-04
RELEASE: Week of October 23, 2023

Two Very Different Worlds: Delius and Holst

Two English composers, Frederick Delius and Gustav Holst, were both born of German parentage, both dead in the same year of 1934, and with little else in common. We start with Delius, and in the years that Bill played as a trombonist in orchestras around the US, he doesn’t recall ever having performed a Delius symphony. Bill describes Delius as having an affinity with Benjamin Britten and we will listen to “On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring” which evokes sounds of the Yorkshire Moors.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-05
RELEASE: Week of October 30, 2023

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

On this edition of Exploring Music, we focus on the works of Leonard Bernstein, the great American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist. We will enjoy Bernstein's unique contributions to our American sounds—West Side Story, Candide, sonatas, symphonies, plus many amazing stories from musicians who had worked with him.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-06
RELEASE: Week of November 6, 2023

Wind Quintets

This week Bill explores some of the glorious music written for the popular chamber music combination of flute, clarinet, oboe, horn, and bassoon. Bill will also focus on each instrument alone so we can identify the sound and character that makes it unique. We will hear famous orchestral woodwind solos, duets, and wind quintets by Franz Danzi, Carl Nielsen, and Darius Milhaud.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-07
RELEASE: Week of November 13, 2023

Under the Hood I

How does this thing work? For some of us, the inner workings of a symphony are as inscrutable as the engine of an automobile is to others. Bill McGlaughlin lifts the "hood" on a handful of symphonies to explore the mechanics of large-scale compositions. Join us as we take a closer look at works by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Sibelius.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-08
RELEASE: Week of November 20, 2023

Incidentally Speaking

For as long as art forms such as theatre and ballet have graced the stage, composers have been there to enhance dramatic action through music. This week Bill explores some of the not-so-incidental music that has resulted and explains how music propels the drama and sustains poignant moments. Bill explains that music often plays a pivotal (if not starring) role. This week we will hear the opening scene of the play *Moderen (The Mother)* by Helge Rode, and Nielsen's two-minute "The Fog is Lifting", which drives the tableau of a mother leaving her son. Compelling works by Fauré, Mendelssohn, Debussy, and others will also be featured.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-09
RELEASE: Week of November 27, 2023

Hector Berlioz

As one of the developers of the symphonic form, Hector Berlioz lived a life full of drama and color. Born in France to parents with plans for him to become a doctor, he pursued everything but medicine. He wrote: "Beethoven opened before me a new world of music, as Shakespeare had revealed a new universe

of poetry.” Join Bill on this journey following the life of Hector Berlioz through musical selections from Romeo and Juliet, Les Troyens, and his colorful Fantastical Symphony (Symphonie Fantastique).

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-10
RELEASE: Week of December 4, 2023

Chicago’s Own Cedille Records

Record labels have their own identities; some are devoted to living composers, others to the spoken word or children’s music. Many solo artists and conductors have exclusive contracts with labels like you’ll find Sir Georg Solti on Decca, or Arthur Rubenstein on RCA. This week we are featuring Cedille Records founded by James Ginsburg in 1989. Cedille Records is a nonprofit record label with the mission to present classical music performers and composers in and from Chicago. Cedille has helped define Chicago’s unique sound. Bill will talk to Jim and Cedille artists like Chicago Symphony clarinetist John Bruce Yeh, Third Coast Percussion member David Skidmore, composer Stacy Garrop, soprano Patrice Michaels, and cellist David Cunliffe.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-11
RELEASE: Week of December 11, 2023

Variations

In one of his *pensées*, Pascal says, “That man lives between the abyss of the infinitely large and the abyss of the infinitely small. The voyage of variations leads to the other infinitude, into the infinite diversity of the interior world lying hidden in all things.” Bill leads us on this voyage through a theme and its variations. We start and end the week by listening to Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-12
RELEASE: Week of December 18, 2023

Schubertiade I

What a scene in Vienna: business owners, intellectuals, and scholars offering their home for a concert! A meal, a place to sleep or a room with a piano - all to support the friend they loved and admired, Franz Schubert. It was a Bohemian life, rich with music and conversation. This week, we are welcomed into those legendary house concerts for an enchanting week of chamber music.

PROGRAM #: EXP 24-13
RELEASE: Week of December 25, 2023

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Born the same year as JS Bach and Giuseppe Domenico Scarlatti, Handel had a distinct sound that married his German roots with his new country of England. We will have a weeklong look at the life and music of England’s most celebrated German composer. Since the Baroque era, many of his works have been performed every year since their first hearing, which is now over 300 hundred years ago. And a good hour into the *Messiah* we all stand for the Hallelujah chorus just as George II did at its first performance.