

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Winter 2025

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-14**
RELEASE: **Week of January 6, 2025**

With a little bit of Pluck

This week's title is a play on words inspired by the song "With a Little Bit of Luck" from the musical *My Fair Lady*. Bill replaces the word "luck" with "pluck" to refer to instruments where the strings are plucked, such as the guitar, lute, mandolin, and pipa. There are approximately 170 plucked instruments around the world that fit this description. Wouldn't it be lovely to hear Bill explore the history of these instruments and listen to as many compositions and players as we can fit into this week of Exploring Music?

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-15**
RELEASE: **Week of January 13, 2025**

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

A child prodigy later hailed by Liszt as "the greatest organist in the world," Camille Saint-Saëns led a fascinating life filled to the brim with music. We will sample his five symphonies, five piano concertos, operas, operettas, incidental music, and chamber music, as well as many piano and solo organ works. Bill's playlist will delight you, including the *Carnival of The Animals* performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy, with solo pianists Claude Frank and Lillian Kallir.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-16**
RELEASE: **Week of January 20, 2025**

Maiden Voyages

Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn, Felix Mendelssohn, and Dmitri Shostakovich are titans of music, but, as Bill considers their first symphonic efforts, he reveals the adversities and ordeals of each composer attempting to develop their individual musical voices. Maiden voyages into the deep of music, include Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, and Symphony No. 1 by Sergei Prokofiev.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-17**
RELEASE: **Week of January 27, 2025**

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 listen to Bill tell the stories of some concertos that were originally rejected by the soloists as being technically unplayable.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-18**
RELEASE: **Week of February 3, 2025**

Orchestral Heroes

This week, Bill responds to a request from a listener in Philadelphia who wants to hear solo performances and concertos by various members of the symphony orchestra. Bill believes that orchestras are among humanity's greatest creations. The beautiful sounds produced by one hundred musicians blend artfully, allowing each instrumentalist to showcase their unique personality and spirit. He has created a playlist featuring solos by the clarinet, horn, oboe, violin, and even saxophone, all highlighting some of our favorite orchestral heroes. We will conclude the week with Ravel's *Boléro*, where every instrument gets to shine.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-19**
RELEASE: **Week of February 10, 2025**

It Was a Lover and His Lass

We start every hour of this week with a "hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino" from the incidental music in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Bill rounds out each day with many different composers' works influenced by all aspects of love. These range from love songs in operas, Richard Wagner's poetic chamber work *Siegfried Idyll* celebrating the birth of his son, to Edward Elgar's *Salut D'Amour*. Music is truly the universal language of love!

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-20**
RELEASE: **Week of February 17, 2025**

Ports of Call, Part I

Once while traveling by train across the Alps, Gustav Mahler turned to his friend, a fellow composer, and said, "Don't bother looking at the view; I have already composed it." For the next two weeks, Exploring Music will present sounds from composers' backyards and hear their journaling voyages to distant lands: from the bird calls in the Amazon jungle expressed by Brazilian composers, to the distant bells ringing as a composer approaches a safe harbor. Listen, for example, to Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's famous *Pines of Rome*, and then travel with him to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he wrote *Brazilian Impressions*, an orchestral suite with strange and beautiful sounds.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-21**
RELEASE: **Week of February 24, 2025**

Ports of Call, Part II

This week on Exploring Music, we will continue traveling with composers around the world. Music from around the globe varies as much as languages do. Many of us can identify the country where a composition was written before we can name the composer who wrote it. You can't separate the composer from his background. Listen to them express the sounds of their native land and paint musical pictures of their travels. We will hear the music of homesick George Gershwin in Paris, Charles Ives floating down the Housatonic River in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, and Ella Fitzgerald and her friends on the "A" train in New York City.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-22**
RELEASE: **Week of March 3, 2025**

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

A look at the life and music of one of Russia's most talented and controversial composers, Sergei Prokofiev. Born in Tsarist Russia, Prokofiev was a brilliant pianist who delighted in shocking the bourgeoisie with his outrageous creations. He went on to become one of the most beloved composers of the 20th century, creating seven symphonies, great concertos, and ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cinderella*. Join Bill McGlaughlin in exploring the music of Sergei Prokofiev.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-23**
RELEASE: **Week of March 10, 2025**

TBA

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-24**
RELEASE: **Week of March 17, 2025**

Pastoral Symphonies

This week will feature symphonic music inspired by bucolic nature scenes. Bill states that we will hear Harold in Italy, Richard Strauss in the mountains, Vaughan Williams in clover, and Beethoven right where you expect him to be, in the Austrian countryside. We'll also feature the thoughts and writings of American novelists, and environmentalists, John Muir and Wallace Stegner.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-25**
RELEASE: **Week of March 24, 2025**

Merrie England

Ready your passport! We're traveling to Merrie, Old England. Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar, and John Dowland all composed music inspired by the folk tunes in country pubs, the

pageantry of Royal Albert Hall and Covent Garden, and the stunning countryside. Join us as we walk along England's pathways, listening to Greensleeves, Turtle Doves, and Dame Janet Baker. Rule Britannia! Britannia rules the waves!

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-26**
RELEASE: **Week of March 31, 2025**
TBA