

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Spring 2025

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-27
RELEASE: April 7, 2025

Symphony, Part I

In the beginning, there were Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, or so we thought. That is until we uncovered a whole world of instrumental music so varied, so wonderful, and so woefully unknown, Bill decided to take time in that glorious place. Starting with a sinfonia by Biaggio Marini from 1618, we slowly make our way through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and finish at the brink of the Romantic era with the second symphony by Beethoven.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-28
RELEASE: April 14, 2025

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Recently, Bill was staying at a beautiful little home in an oak forest in Massachusetts, near the Connecticut River. There had been tremendous thunderstorms through the night, but when he awoke, on that Sunday morning, the sun was shining, and the birds were singing. He thought what we need in the world is more days of peace and joy. So, this is a whole week with music about peace and we borrow the title, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, from the Latin Mass We hope that you find some peace in our selections including works by William Byrd, Edvard Grieg, and we will hear Ella Fitzgerald sing one of her favorite songs, "Angel Eyes."

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-29
RELEASE: April 21, 2025

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

A musical biography of the torrid life of one of Germany's early romantics. Married to composer/pianist Clara Wieck, and a friend to Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn, and Joseph Joachim, Schumann was at the very heart of the German Romantic intellectual movement in the mid-nineteenth century. He was a composer, pianist, and music critic. This week we will listen to Maurizio Pollini play *Davidsbündlertänze*, Op 6, Murray Perahia perform his Piano Concerto in A minor, and the Cleveland Orchestra conducted by George Szell play his Symphony No. 3, known as the "Rhenish."

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-30
RELEASE: April 28, 2025

Baltic Music

Many of us know and love the work of Jean Sibelius, Finland's greatest musical export, but the countries around the Gulf of Finland have given us a wealth of composers, some better known than others. This week's theme is music from this land of lakes and islands — isolated, self-contained, and full of beauty. Composers like Erkki Melartin, Leevi Madetoja, Heino Eller, and Arvo Pärt, working in the long shadow of Sibelius, created violin concertos, symphonies, tone poems, choral works, and chamber works. So, what is it that fascinates us about this distant northern region? Perhaps we will sum it up best with a fantastic piece by Uno Klami called *Aurora Borealis*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-31
RELEASE: May 5, 2025

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.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-32
RELEASE: May 12, 2025

Tone Poems

Generally, tone poems use music to evoke the essence of a painting, a poem, or other non-musical source. In a literal case of art imitating life, symphonic music is freed from its traditional structures and takes a programmatic turn. Bill invites us to sit with him as he describes and listens to this image-evoking dramatic music in works like Ottorino Respighi's *Gli Uccelli* and George Gershwin's *American in Paris*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-33
RELEASE: May 19, 2025

American Masters, Part III

Our series celebrating American composers continues with more innovative works from composers born in the first fifteen years of the 20th century. Lou Harrison with his love of Indonesian Gamelan music, George Rochberg's tonal 3rd string quartet performed by the Concord Quartet, then on to Franz Waxman's orchestral music, and Bill ends the week with a full hour of music from the quintessential New Yorker, Morton Gould. Don't miss the treat of the week; Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter*, performed by the St. Louis Symphony with John Cassica soloing on the typewriter.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-34
RELEASE: May 26, 2025

Treasure Hunt

EUREKA! This week Bill invites us to come along on a treasure hunt. We will dig deep into that overflowing box of CDs in the back of his front hall closet. He found many real treasures starting with a marvelous young Icelandic pianist, Vikingur Olafsson, and a beautiful recording of the Beethoven Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos. This is a well-rounded week where we are introduced to musicians with fresh new interpretations of works by Claude Debussy and Johannes Brahms, and we end the week crossing the globe with works from Lisa Batiashvili's *City Lights*, Susan Palma's *Best of Brazil*, and Howard Wall's *Horn Monologues*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-35

RELEASE: June 2, 2025

It Takes Two to Tango

Bill starts by sharing tunes with two musical lines, where one line goes up while the other goes down to create a counter melody, to complex sonatas like Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata for violin and piano. This week will feature remarkable performances of musicians working in tandem playing Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart. We'll also savor the great love duets of Verdi, Puccini, and Wagner. Oh, don't miss the meowing cat duets of Rossini and Ravel.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-36
RELEASE: June 9, 2025

Giuseppe Verdi, Part I (1813-1901)

This week we begin a ten-part series surveying the life and music of Giuseppe Verdi, a towering figure in Italian art and perhaps the greatest composer of nineteenth-century opera. We'll explore the nooks and crannies of Verdi's repertoire, including a trip to Medieval Spain, Shakespeare's Scotland, and even 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 25-37
RELEASE: June 16, 2025

Giuseppe Verdi, Part II (1813-1901)

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 Italian painters, Egyptian princesses, and composes perhaps the grandest requiem ever written. Rumor has it that at Verdi's funeral, a hundred thousand voices rose in song as Arturo Toscanini conducted the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from his opera *Nabucco*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-38
RELEASE: June 23, 2025

Bushel of Fifths

Bill says this is not a bushel of whiskey or carrots but a remarkable number of big symphonies that bear the number five. Consider the fifth symphonies of Beethoven, Mahler, Sibelius, and Shostakovich, and we will not run out! The first few symphonies a composer writes are complicated, but by the fifth symphony, they know how to construct it and what they want to say in the music. Most of these symphonies are composed at the mid-point in a composer's life, although our first composer, Franz Schubert, was only 16 when he wrote his Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major. We will listen to great orchestras conducted by Karl Böhm, Herbert von Karajan, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Eugene Ormandy.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-39
RELEASE: June 30, 2025

Sounds of the City of Light

Music in Paris from Hector Berlioz to Claude Debussy, spanning from 1830 to the early 1900s. Paris, known as the City of Light, is illuminated by many musical stars. No time was this more true than in this period between Berlioz's birth and Debussy's death. In this edition of *Exploring Music*, Bill McGlaughlin discovers what made luminaries such as Georges Bizet, Charles Gounod, and Charles-Valentin Alkan shine.