

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Summer 2025

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-40
RELEASE: Week of July 7, 2025

Invitation to the Dance II

Experience five hours of beautiful music composed for dramatic performances, including stage plays, opera, and ballet. We begin with Jean-Baptiste Lully, an Italian-born French composer described by Bill as “the most ‘dancingest’ composer who ever lived.” Next, enjoy dance music from Stravinsky, Schubert, and even Beethoven! On Wednesday’s program, Bill will introduce his children’s favorite dance music, featuring Bartok’s *Miraculous Mandarin* Suite and *The Wooden Prince*. This week will conclude with Tchaikovsky’s *Sleeping Beauty* and a charming suite of dances from Manuel de Falla’s *Three-Cornered Hat*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-41
RELEASE: Week of July 14, 2025

Songs of Parting

Adiós, adieu, sayonara, vale, zàijiàn — no turning back this week as Bill explores musical farewells. He features works ranging from Purcell’s “Sonata for Trumpet” to Bach’s “Capriccio,” a heartfelt goodbye to his eldest brother. Prokofiev’s ballet “Romeo and Juliet” includes a moving farewell from Romeo, where the mandolin cleverly sets the scene in Italy, and the saxophone expresses Romeo’s poignant departure. Kathleen Ferrier sings a Northumbrian folk song, “Blow the Wind Southerly,” and Ray Charles doesn’t mince words in his shout to “Hit the Road Jack!” that includes a snarling vocal by Margie Hendricks of the Raelettes, and yes, more saxophone.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-42
RELEASE: Week of July 21, 2025

The Art of the Transcription

This week’s theme, musical transcriptions refer to taking a composition and changing its instrumentation. For example, transforming a piano piece into an orchestral work or adapting a string quartet into a wind quintet. We will start with Johann Sebastian Bach’s discovery of the works of Antonio Vivaldi while exploring the library at the court of Leopold, Prince of Anhalt-Köthen. Bill will present Vivaldi’s “Concerto for Four Violins,” followed by Bach’s transcription of this piece for four harpsichords. Additionally, we will hear transcriptions of Bach’s organ works by Edward Elgar, John Barbirolli, and Otto Klemperer. This week concludes with Maurice Ravel’s well-known, orchestral transcription of Modest Mussorgsky’s piano work “Pictures at an Exhibition” performed by the Berlin Philharmonic.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-43
RELEASE: Week of July 28, 2025

To The Finland Station, Part 1

“I have spoken Russian all my life. I think in Russian, my way of expressing myself is Russian. Perhaps this is not immediately apparent in my music, but it is latent there, a part of its hidden nature.” —Igor Stravinsky, Russian-born, naturalized French, and then American, spoke these words in an emotional visit to his homeland after an almost fifty-year absence. For the next two weeks, we will follow the lives of some of our favorite Russian musicians, and how the revolution changed them and their music. Starting a decade before the Revolution, we will then spend time on the period 1918 to 1924, Lenin’s reign, and then on into the era of Stalin, with the music of Shostakovich and Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-44
RELEASE: Week of August 4, 2025

To The Finland Station, Part 2

The theme of my Fifth Symphony is the making of man.” — Dmitry Shostakovich. In 1949, Shostakovich traveled to New York for the first time to perform his Fifth Symphony on the piano for 30,000 listeners at Madison Square Garden. The shy composer made this trip and concert at the request of Joseph Stalin. The theme of the making of mankind was prevalent among many artists in the 1930s, who used their creativity to respond to the tumultuous political climate of the time, sometimes composing entire symphonies in just a matter of weeks. This week marks the second part of our two-week exploration into the hidden phrases and chords of these Russian musicians. Bill will feature composers from both sides of the Iron Curtain.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-45
RELEASE: Week of August 11, 2025

Haydn Symphonies

Dear old Papa Haydn, as he was known in eighteenth-century Vienna, was a fatherly figure to the finest musicians of his day. He is also the father of the symphonic form. This week we will sample some of his 104 symphonies, following their development from modest orchestral pieces to expressions of wit, humor, and drama. We will listen to the Orchestra of St. Luke’s conducted by Charles Mackerras, the Pittsburgh Symphony under the direction of André Previn, and Leonard Bernstein with the Vienna Philharmonic, among other ensembles performing Haydn’s symphonies.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-46
RELEASE: Week of August 18, 2025

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*. This week Bill pulled down these CDs and they became the theme – colorful, great performances of music that Bill adores.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-47

RELEASE: **Week of August 25, 2025**

Bach Sleeps in on Sundays

Johann Sebastian Bach dedicated most of his life to serving God and the Lutheran Church. As noted by Bill, "Bach family members worked as church musicians from Martin Luther to Otto von Bismarck...nearly 400 years." However, Bach also composed remarkable and enduring secular music, particularly during the five years (1717-1722) he spent working for Prince Leopold. During this time, he created the cello suites, violin sonatas and partitas, and the Brandenburg Concertos. Bill chronicles this intensely creative period in the life of JS Bach.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-48**
RELEASE: **Week of September 1, 2025**

Les Six

It's the anti-Wagner and anti-Impressionist tour de force. Join us for the delightfully irreverent bad boys, and girl, of 1920's Montparnasse. The members of this group called, Les Six, were Georges Auric (1899–1983), Louis Durey (1888–1979), Arthur Honegger (1892–1955), Darius Milhaud (1892–1974), Francis Poulenc (1899–1963), and Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983).

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-49**
RELEASE: **Week of September 8, 2025**

School Days

Celebrating the excitement of a new school year, we dedicate a week to children's songs, young composers and performers. We will hear compositions from Felix Mendelssohn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, as well as travel down the Mississippi with Huckleberry Finn and composer Ferde Grofé. Additionally, we will feature Muzio Clementi's Sonatina No. 1 in C Major, Op. 36, Edward Elgar's "Dream Children" and "The Wand of Youth" Suite No. 1, Op. 1.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 25-50**
RELEASE: **Week of September 15, 2025**

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 25-51**
RELEASE: **Week of September 22, 2025**

Franz Schubert and The Friends He Never Got to Meet, Part 1

Bill and many other musicians have spent time studying the intimate worlds of great composers, trying to better understand their musical voice. After years of study, they find themselves “knowing” these composers and consider them friends. Bill was born 120 years too late to have met Franz Schubert, but he still thinks of him as a close friend. Schubert died in 1828 at just 31. He left us with music that expresses tremendous love and friendship. On this week’s program, Bill shares performances from Earl Wild, Imogen Cooper, Marian Anderson, and members of the Vienna Philharmonic to communicate their intimate connections with Schubert through his songs, piano music, chamber music, and orchestral works.

PROGRAM #: EXP 25-52
RELEASE: Week of September 29, 2025

Franz Schubert and The Friends He Never Got to Meet, Part 2

Surely a great many of us have been moved by the deep music of the Austrian composer Franz Schubert, who created a massive catalog of works despite living only a tragically short 31 years. Bill got to thinking about all the composers who would have been friends with Schubert but were born just a few years too late. In this set of shows, we continue with listening to the works of Frédéric Chopin, Robert Schumann, and Franz Liszt. We offer you performances of Arthur Rubinstein alone, Charles Rosin and Richard Goode accompanied by orchestras, plus Yo-Yo Ma, Evgeny Kissin, the Juilliard Quartet with Leonard Bernstein (at the piano!), Dawn Upshaw, George Szell, Emanuel Ax, and even Van Cliburn.