

Exploring Music
Broadcast Schedule – Spring 2026

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-27**
RELEASE: **April 6, 2026**

Homage

The gift of immortality through the hands of great composers. How would you like to be the subject of a composition by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, or Mozart? In many cases, the fame of the music has outlasted that of its honoree, but we'll explore some of these heartfelt gestures and the composers who made them. Works include Handel's Water Music and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-28**
RELEASE: **April 13, 2026**

Shh, it's a Secret: Musical Cryptograms

Musicians have long been told that their minds are similar to those of mathematicians. This week, we'll discover and decipher codes, messages, and meanings hidden within pieces of classical music. Some of these messages were encoded for the fun of the puzzle, while others held deep, painful meanings. Composers such as JS Bach, Edward Elgar, and Alban Berg delighted in tucking these musical enigmas into their masterpieces.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-29**
RELEASE: **April 20, 2026**

The Russian Five

This group, also known as *The Mighty Handful*, includes Mily Balakirev, Modest Mussorgsky, César Cui, Alexander Borodin, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. Led by Balakirev, they helped create the Russian National School of Composers in Saint Petersburg from 1856 to 1870. In these programs, Bill will introduce each composer and share important works performed by renowned musicians, including the USSR Symphony Orchestra and the Borodin Quartet.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-30**
RELEASE: **April 27, 2026**

A Visit with Richard Stoltzman

Bill shares an interview with the legendary clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, whose career spans over 50 years as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, jazz performer, arranger, and recording artist. Stoltzman's welcoming spirit has introduced us to new musicians and fresh

takes on music by Messiaen, Takemitsu, and Copland, and he has commissioned works from many, many composers. As you listen to his stories about his parents, Benny Goodman, Rudolf Serkin, and his teachers and friends, you quickly understand his dedication to a lifetime spent getting it right.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-31**
RELEASE: **May 4, 2026**

Claude Debussy (1809-1847)

Claude Debussy, who once said he learned more from poets and painters than from the music conservatory, is considered the figurehead of Impressionist music (though he would vehemently argue against it). While we listen to his compositions, Bill reflects on Debussy's peculiar upbringing, his studies at the Paris Conservatory, and his Prix de Rome win.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-32**
RELEASE: **May 11, 2026**

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

This week on Exploring Music, we look at the life and musical development of one of Hungary's greatest composers. A musician's musician, Bartok was supported by many of the great conductors of his era. Paul Sacher, who led the Basel Chamber Orchestra, asked him to write the *Divertimento for Strings*. Serge Koussevitsky and Fritz Reiner invited him to compose the *Concerto for Orchestra*. At the end of the week, we'll hear Benny Goodman perform *Contrasts for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano*, a piece he requested from Bartok.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-33**
RELEASE: **May 18, 2026**

What Else Ya Got?

Have you ever wondered about those composers who succeeded in writing one smashing piece but were otherwise forgotten? This week, we'll get to know some of these immortals and their other compositions, including Pachelbel's Suite in G Major and Dukas' Symphony in C Major. The program also presents Hermann Baumann in a rare performance of Glière's Horn Concerto in B-flat Major, Op. 91.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-34**
RELEASE: **May 25, 2026**

32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas

Pathétique. Moonlight. Appassionata. Hammerklavier. Ludwig van Beethoven wrote his first

piano sonata at the age of 25 and his last at 52, and together these 32 sonatas have been called "The New Testament" of music. Artur Schnabel was the first pianist to record a complete set, and since then this feat has been achieved by Daniel Barenboim, Alfred Brendel, Claude Frank, Maurizio Pollini, and Claudio Arrau - twice! We'll sample as many as we possibly can, and we hope you will share in our wonder and amazement at Beethoven's Piano Sonatas.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-35**
RELEASE: **June 1, 2026**

Strangers in a Strange Land

We will hear the musical evolution of five mature composers as they started their new lives in America: Russian Igor Stravinsky, Hungarian Bela Bartok, German Kurt Weill, Italian Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and Austrian Ernst Toch. These five composers arrived in America early in the Twentieth Century and quickly became vital members of our American musical community. Bill leads us through their development of new sounds and relationships, all the while telling the fantastic stories that link us to their teachers, Rimsky-Korsakov and Richard Strauss.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-36**
RELEASE: **June 8, 2026**

Haydn and Mozart Quartets

When Haydn first started composing for the string quartet, the first violinist was the star, actually standing in front of the other three seated players. Ninety-nine Haydn string quartets later, the form had evolved into four equal voices. Bill will share with us the brief time in history when Mozart and Haydn enjoyed each other's company, playing and composing string quartets together.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-37**
RELEASE: **June 15, 2026**

The Symphonies, Part X

This week, Bill McGlaughlin continues his multi-part exploration of this vibrant, exciting musical form with symphonies written between 1900 and 1920. Bill focuses on works rarely heard in concert, or on the radio for that matter: Alexander Scriabin's Symphony No. 3 conducted by Riccardo Muti, an important interpreter of the Scriabin color wheel; George Enescu's Symphony No. 2; and Samuel Barber's Symphony No. 1, conducted by Marin Alsop.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-38**
RELEASE: **June 22, 2026**

Sir William Walton (1902-1983)

This is a week steeped in 20th-century British music. Composer Benjamin Britten wrote that hearing William Walton's music was a “great turning point in my musical life.” Bill features Walton’s love of different musical genres: film music from *Henry V*, the poem *Façade* set to music performed by the London Mozart Players narrated by Prunella Scales (Sybil from BBC’s *Fawlty Towers*), the orchestral march *Crown Imperial*, the cantata *Belshazzar’s Feast*, and his Viola Concerto, which is studied and performed by all serious violists.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-39**
RELEASE: **June 29, 2026**

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Gershwin was a true American original who broke musical boundaries, writing everything from Broadway musicals and popular songs to symphonic works and jazz. In just 38 years, he fearlessly explored new ideas and created a wide range of music, including what Bill describes as “an opera unlike any other opera,” *Porgy and Bess*. Bill shares how Gershwin’s life and work “flashed across the world like a comet,” and gives fresh insights into the people and experiences that shaped him. We invite you to join us as we celebrate George Gershwin’s life and soulful music.