

Exploring Music

Broadcast Schedule – Summer 2026

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-40
RELEASE: July 6, 2026

Voices from the East

A single bell rings steadily, creating a calm, meditative mood. Gradually, the strings join in, playing canonic scales that shimmer through the music. This first piece in *Voices from the East*, is *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten* by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. Over the week, we'll explore music by composers from the Baltic states, travel to Chistopol in western Russia, and finish in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains. You'll hear works by Arvo Pärt, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Giya Kancheli. Come join us on this musical journey!

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-41
RELEASE: July 13, 2026

Symphony, Part IV

We start this week featuring the symphonic form at its Romantic apex, with Austrian composers Anton Bruckner and Gustav Mahler. Then we'll head over to Britain to enjoy the music of Edward Elgar. Together, these three composers wrote 22 symphonies, which is impressive considering Bruckner didn't compose his first until his forties, and Elgar was turning fifty! Get ready for a week filled with vivid, colorful orchestral symphonies.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-42
RELEASE: July 20, 2026

Get the Picture?

Listen to the works of composers inspired by well-known paintings and poems. Pianist Alicia de Larrocha will perform *Goyescas*, by Enrique Granados, a musical impression of Francisco Goya's paintings. This week also includes Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Hindemith's *Matthias der Maler*, and Rachmaninoff's *Isle of the Dead*. Many of these musical works have gone on to further inspire new artistic creations. This week, visual art and music become one!

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-43
RELEASE: July 27, 2026

Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)

"Every town in the United States had a five-and-dime and a Boulanger student," Virgil Thomson once said, and he wasn't far off. Nadia Boulanger taught and influenced an entire generation of musicians, from Aaron Copland and Ástor Piazzolla to Philip Glass and Quincy Jones, and this week we'll hear some of her compositions and performances alongside those of her prolific students.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-44
RELEASE: August 3, 2026

String Quartet Composers from Fibich to Sibelius

This week, Bill broadens his look at the string quartet, focusing on lesser-known late-19th-century composers. He begins with *Poème* for violin and piano by Czech composer Zdeněk Fibich. Bill says, "The music is familiar, but the composer may not be." *Poème* was the score for one of George Balanchine's first ballets. Fibich was among the European composers born in the mid-19th century featured here, such as Hugo Wolf, Vincent d'Indy, and Ernest Chausson. Bill also adds New England composer Amy Beach to this group.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-45
RELEASE: August 10, 2026

Musical Dynasties

This week's topic, "Musical Dynasties," was suggested by a station in Arizona. Andy Bade, Music Host for Classical 90.5 KUAT-FM in Tucson, wrote in with some program ideas. Bill McGlaughlin replied, "Hey Andy, great to hear from you. I mean, REALLY great. At this precise moment, your email shows up with three great projects. Since I need to get to work right away, I'm inclined to favor number three of your suggestions. So, Musical Dynasties: Gabrieli, Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Robert and Clara Schumann, Strauss: the Johanns and Richard, and ending with the Haydns: Joseph and Michael." Thanks so much for taking the time to write!

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-46
RELEASE: August 17, 2026

Curse of the Ninth! Ninth Symphonies

Why did so many great composers die after finishing their ninth symphony? This week, we look at the so-called curse of the Ninth Symphony, a legend that started with Beethoven in the mid-1820s. Over time, people began to believe that writing a ninth symphony could be a composer's final work and maybe even mark their last year on Earth. We'll listen to five famous ninth symphonies by Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner, Dvořák, and Mahler.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-47
RELEASE: August 24, 2026

Sound the Trumpets

The trumpet takes center stage this week on Exploring Music with host Peter van de Graaff. Its story stretches back thousands of years and spans many cultures. We'll listen to the Shofar, a ram's horn from biblical times, and the ancient trumpets found in Tutankhamun's tomb. And we'll savor the modern trumpet's bright sound in music by Bach and Vivaldi, and in the rich and complex symphonic music of Mahler, Ravel, and Stravinsky.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-48
RELEASE: August 31, 2026

Fit For a King

For centuries, the relationship between a King and his musical subjects has been intimate and deep. From Bach to Bridge, we will listen to this rich and intriguing world of the European court composer. Bill mentions this is listening to some glorious music and, in most cases, giving credit where credit is due to

the people who commissioned these works. Bill will connect Haydn, Scarlatti, and Walton to their savvy patrons, confirming that if you want to command the finest musicians, it's helps to be the king.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-49
RELEASE: September 7, 2026

Bill's Keepers

Bill keeps a big box at home filled with albums from friends around the world. This week, he's sharing some of his favorites, which he calls "his keepers." Bill says these CDs are just too good to give away. We'll listen to Mendelssohn performed by Isaac Perlman, as well as pieces from flutist Robert Stallman's CD, *The Nightingale in Love*.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-50
RELEASE: September 14, 2026

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Composer of nine masterful symphonies, editor of the English Hymnal, an ambulance driver in WWI and great-nephew to Charles Darwin, Ralph Vaughan Williams was a prolific and intriguing figure who was at the forefront of English music in the early 20th century. We'll look at his life, listen to his friends perform his music, and hear the music that inspired him.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-51
RELEASE: September 21, 2026

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

Darius Milhaud stands among history's most prolific composers. His boundless curiosity drew him to cultures and sounds from every corner of the globe. His music is alive with inspiration and imagination. Born in Southern France, he traveled to Brazil and later to California, where he taught young musicians including Burt Bacharach, Dave Brubeck, and William Bolcom. Host Peter van de Graaff invites you into the vibrant musical world of Darius Milhaud this week on Exploring Music.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-52
RELEASE: September 28, 2026

A Guitar Fest

This week's show was inspired by a listener who suggested we dedicate some time to Andrés Segovia. He wrote, "Of all musicians I have known, no one dominated the field as he did. Almost single-handedly, he converted the guitar from a plaything to a concert instrument. Several composers dedicated their works to him. An amazing artist and an unforgettable man." So, this week, we'll hear Andrés Segovia and his colleagues perform guitar pieces by Bach, Villa-Lobos, Albéniz, and Brouwer.