

Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin
Broadcast Schedule – Winter 2026

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-14**
RELEASE: **January 5, 2026**
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

A master of wit and elegance, Francis Poulenc was equal parts *boulevardier* and *enfant terrible*. His melodic gifts and prolific output made him one of the 20th century's most enduring composers. Even more impressive, Poulenc was the only self-taught member of *Les Six*. This group of young French composers was considered the brightest stars of contemporary French music at the time. Bill displays the range of Poulenc's pieces this week— from witty parody to deep tragedy and everything in between.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-15**
RELEASE: **January 12, 2026**
Mozart at his Zenith

Beginning in 1786 at the first hearing of Mozart's opera *The Marriage of Figaro*, we'll explore the stream of masterpieces, including operas, symphonies, piano concertos, and chamber works that Mozart wrote in the last five years of his life. He was in his early thirties, navigating the political life of a court composer in Vienna, while partying with the passion of a young man, and all the while producing one masterpiece after another. On November 20, 1791, Mozart took to his bed, yet he still brought in one of his protégés to write down notes and phrases. On December 5, Mozart died, leaving his *Requiem Mass* unfinished. From these years alone, Mozart left a body of work that expresses a universe of imagination and emotions.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-16**
RELEASE: **January 19, 2026**
You and the Night and the Music

Novelists have built their plots around great music. Join us as we step into the minds of authors trying to describe the feelings and emotions of music. We begin with an inspiring mandolin and the letters of T.S. Eliot. In Thursday's program, Bill tells the story of a violin maker and part-time sleuth who has a nostalgic longing for Bach. Dvorák falls in love. An author reminisces about his father's final journey with Beethoven. We end our travels through literature and music with a dream of the devil and E.M. Forster's vision of Beethoven from *Howard's End*.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-17**
RELEASE: **January 26, 2026**
TBA

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-18
RELEASE: February 2, 2026
Music of Scandinavia

The lighter these northern lands are in the summer just means the darker the winters will be, and these dark winters are in the living tissue of every Scandinavian. Their movies, orchestral works, poems, and paintings are comfortably at home expressing deep, dark emotions. Exploring Music has featured the works of Grieg and Nielsen, but there is a great many wonderful works by other composers that we will hear this week. Bill will feature composers such as Wilhelm Stenhammar, Per Nørgård, and Lars-Erik Larsson, and we will hear this music performed by contemporary Scandinavian artists.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-19 (Valentine's Day)
RELEASE: February 9, 2026
TBA

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-20
RELEASE: February 16, 2026
Johannes Brahms, Part I (1833-1897)

The first of a two-week biography exploring the music and life of a defining voice of the German Romantic Era. In his formative years as a pianist, Brahms befriends Robert and Clara Schumann, and with their support and later with the violinist Joseph Joachim, develops his musical voice. Bill speaks of Brahms' struggles to publish symphonies on the heels of Beethoven- his two orchestral serenades were played publicly twenty years before his four symphonies. We end this first part of Brahms' story with the German Requiem.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-21
RELEASE: February 23, 2026
Johannes Brahms, Part II (1833-1897)

This is the second of two weeks exploring the music and life of the great German master. Brahms's love of Hungarian Gypsy music and folksongs allowed him to create music that speaks to our inner souls. Scholars believe Brahms discarded more works than he published, so let us treasure the music we have from him.

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-22
RELEASE: March 2, 2026
TBA

PROGRAM #: EXP 26-23
RELEASE: March 9, 2026
Triple Play

It's trios on Exploring Music! Piano trios, string trios, operatic trios, and many others. Trios have their own set of challenges for composers and performers, and this week, Bill will demonstrate on the piano, pointing out to us their complex structure of voice harmonies. We will hear Beethoven's Triple Concerto, the trio from Act III of Der Rosenkavalier, and on Friday, Bill plays a wonderful treat from Porgy and Bess performed by the Bill Evans Trio. Join us for a delightful week of music for three, where the odd man is not left out.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-24**
RELEASE: **March 16, 2026**
Pacific Overtures I

Oo-ee baby - won't ya let me take you on a sea cruise... for a trip around the Pacific Rim! This is a two-week-long adventure, and we're starting off in a Land Down Under. In Australia, we'll hear Aboriginal music alongside pieces by Percy Grainger and Peter Sculthorpe. In New Zealand, we'll hear Māori music, featuring Dame Gillian Whitehead and Kiri Te Kanawa. Then, we'll continue sailing west to South America, where we'll encounter music from Argentina and Chile. It's a two-part show, so tune in next week to see where else we go!

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-25**
RELEASE: **March 23, 2026**
Pacific Overtures II

This is our second week cruising the Pacific Rim! We've borrowed the title from Stephen Sondheim's 1976 musical, and you'll hear a selection from that when our tour reaches Asia. But first, we start where we left off last week, in Chile and Colombia, then we head up into Mexico, where we'll hear Silvestre Revueltas and Carlos Chávez, before motoring to the Pacific Northwest and Canada, to hear works composed by Glenn Gould's piano teacher! Then everybody back on the boat for a long, long sail all the way down to the Philippines, to Java, to China, Korea, and Japan, and finally, because after a trip like this, we could use a break, to enjoy tunes from the Hawaiian Islands.

PROGRAM #: **EXP 26-26**
RELEASE: **March 30, 2026**
TBA