

# Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Queensborough Community College

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Fall 2019

Sections F2 (T 12:10-3), M4A (Th 3:10-6), J4 (Th 6:10-9)



# Recap

- Impressionism: Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel
- Expressionism: Arnold Schoenberg
- Designing an opera!
  - Student-designed operas: Das Madchen in rot, Killing Passion, The Betrayal, Unhappily Ever After, A Snowy Day, Failed Intentions, Lost Crown, Murder on the scene but it's not nice, The Tragedy of Hercules
  - Fairy tales and folk tales – Weber: *Der Freischutz*, Bartok: *Blue Beard's Castle*
  - Fantasy – exoticism in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century operas
  - Humor – ex, many operas in Italian from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Verdi: *Falstaff*, Rossini: *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *La Cenerentola*)
  - Actively reflecting the world in which we live right now – ex, style of verismo (early 20<sup>th</sup> century), Laura Kaminsky: *As One* (2014), Anthony Blanchard, *Central Park Five* (2019), Jeanine Tesori, *Blue* (2019) Terence Blanchard, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* (2020)

# Recap

- Careers in music: arts administration
- News, November 16 – Turtle Bay Music School (established in 1925) will be closing in January
  - 63 teachers and staff
  - Jazz, classical private lessons, ensembles, Saturday Prep Program (for students in Grades 3-5), and community groups
  - Free concerts
  - Rent affordable rehearsal and performance space to members of the community
  - Provide music classes in 7 NYC public schools and 5 seniors centers



## Round table #2: Warm-up writing

What's something you're planning on doing differently today that you didn't do during the previous roundtable discussion?

What are our best practices to make sure everyone gets as much out of this activity as possible?

# Round table #2: Reflective writing

What was the most interesting or surprising thing you learned from the discussion today?

Quickfire vote: Which of the following topics do you want to discuss after the break today?

Copyright | Sexual harassment | International politics |  
Race and racism | Gender | Online streaming | “Tradition”

# Career comparison: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



- Lasting influence as a craftsman of music, explorer of harmony
  - His music is considered “serious” and worthy of analysis and contemplation – often revered without question
- Central figure in the “canon” of Western music – the music that is taught in school and performed regularly in concert halls
- Known for his keyboard music, sacred music (cantatas)
  - Wrote chamber music, solos, and concertos for every instrument available

# J.S. Bach, Brandenburg Concertos – Dedication to Christian Ludwig, March 24, 1721

As I had the good fortune a few years ago to be heard by Your Royal Highness, at Your Highness's commands, and as I noticed then that Your Highness took some pleasure in the little talents which Heaven has given me for Music, and as in taking Leave of Your Royal Highness, Your Highness designed to honour me with the command to send Your Highness some pieces of my Composition: I have in accordance with Your Highness's most gracious orders taken the liberty of rendering my most humble duty to Your Royal Highness with the present Concertos, which I have adapted to several instruments; begging Your Highness most humbly not to judge their imperfection with the rigor of that discriminating and sensitive taste, which everyone knows Him to have for musical works, but rather to take into benign Consideration the profound respect and the most humble obedience which I thus attempt to show Him.

# Johann Sebastian Bach, Brandenburg Concertos

- While Bach was employed at Cöthen (1717-23), the Prince married a woman who was unmusical and persuaded the Prince to spend less time on his musical pursuits
  - Prince disbanded his orchestra
  - Bach started looking for new employers
- Bach sent a set of 6 concerti as a gift to Christian Ludwig (Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt)
  - Written for the 17 instrumental players Bach worked with in Cöthen – each piece features a small group of soloists
  - Ludwig didn't have the musicians to perform the pieces
  - Manuscript was lost and forgotten until 1849

# Bach's duties as Kantor of St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, 1723-50

- In charge of the music in the town's 4 main churches
- Run the collegium musicum (public concert series)
- Instruct schoolboys in music (both vocal and instrumental)
- Be an upstanding citizen and show respect to the town council at all times



Thomaskirche, Leipzig

# Group research and presentations

Gustav Mahler: “Tradition is not the worship of ashes but the preservation of fire” – What is the classical music tradition *today*?

[www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me) /copyright  
/sexual-harassment  
/international-politics  
/race-and-racism  
/gender  
/streaming  
/tradition

What decisions are being made? By whom? Whom does this issue benefit?  
How is it problematic? What effects might it have? How does it affect you?  
How can you relate it to other things you've learned in this class?

# Reminders

- Two remaining classes (all assigned reading is available online):
  - T Dec 3 / Th Dec 5: minimalism
  - T Dec 10 / Th Dec 12: experimentation and virtuosity
- Online discussion #10 (Music and economics) ends Sunday Nov 24
  - Nov 25-Dec 1: Voyager 2019
  - Dec 2-8: Music and violence
- Writing Portfolio due T Dec 10 / Th Dec 12
  - Includes Concert Response Essay
  - Nov 24, 2pm – Dr. J. recital in Brooklyn
- Have a great holiday!



End write

Write a letter to a student who is registering for Spring 2019 classes and tell them why they should or should not take a class like Mu 101.