



Georgian Triangle Lifelong Learning Institute, September 6, 2019

Introduction

Short background about growing up in Canada.

Musical excerpt: Fr. Chopin – *Waltz in A minor, op. post.*

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849), a Polish composer born in Żelazowa Wola. He was commonly known as the 'poet of the piano' and founded the instrumental ballade.

Musical excerpt: Fr. Chopin – *Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, op. 47*
Selected poem: Adam Mickiewicz – *Świtezianka (The Lady of Lake Switez)*

Recommended reading:

Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times by Dr. Alan Walker

Pan Tadeusz by Adam Mickiewicz, Kenneth R. MacKenzie (Translator)

The Baroque Era

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), a German composer and master of contrapuntal forms, known especially for his large-scale vocal/instrumental works such as St. Matthew Passion and the Brandenburg Concertos.

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), a German composer and inventor of the oratorio (i.e. Messiah), who eventually spent most of his career in London.

Well vs. Equal Temperament Tuning

Musical Forms: Theme & Variations; Passacaglia; Chaconne

Musical excerpts: G.F. Handel – *Keyboard Suite in G HWV 432: Passacaglia*
J.S. Bach – *Goldberg Variations BWV 988: Aria*

Recommended reading:

Baroque Music: Style and Performance: A Handbook by Robert Donington

Music in the Castle of Heaven: A Portrait Of Johann Sebastian Bach by John Eliot Gardiner

The Classical Era

Cadences: Full Cadence, Plagal Cadence, Deceptive Cadence

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), a German composer and virtuoso pianist, who became one of the most influential and innovative musicians of his era, leaving behind legacy of sonatas, string quartets, symphonies and concertos.

Musical forms: Sonata-Allegro Form



Musical excerpt: L. van Beethoven – *Piano Sonata in C major, op. 53 “Waldstein”: First Movement.*

Recommended reading:

The Classical Style: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven by Charles Rosen

Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph by Jan Swafford

The Romantic Era

The Art Song. Musical forms: Through-composed, Strophic, Modified Strophic, Verse-Chorus

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – an Austrian composer of more than 600 secular art songs, eight symphonies (the eighth was unfinished) and a multitude of other vocal/instrumental works.

Musical excerpt: Fr. Schubert – *Erlkönig, op. 1*

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) – a Hungarian composer and virtuoso pianist. Aside from his powerful showmanship at the keyboard, he was also founder of the symphonic poem.

Musical excerpt: Fr. Liszt – *Hungarian Rhapsody No.6, S.244/6*

Recommended reading:

Music in the Nineteenth Century: The Oxford History of Western Music by Richard Taruskin

Franz Liszt, Volume 1 by Alan Walker

20th Century

Recovery of music banned during the Holocaust.

Karol Rathaus (1895-1954) – a Polish-Jewish composer, brought up with a strong German-Austrian music tradition, who eventually settled in the United States to escape Nazism.

Walter Arlen (1920-) – an Austrian/American composer and music critic of the Los Angeles Times.

Recommended reading:

What to Listen for in Music by Aaron Copland

The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century by Alex Ross

Forbidden Music: The Jewish Composers Banned by the Nazis by Michael Haas

Outreach Activities

Piano Six – www.pianosix.com. A pan-Canadian project involving six pianists who perform in remote, rural regions. Upcoming gala concert in Toronto on October 22, 2019.

Collingwood Summer Music Festival – www.collingwoodfestival.com. A yearly event that brings in top, internationally-renowned talent into Collingwood each summer.

Second Part

Discovering the learning process using miniatures from *For Children: Book I* by Bela Bartok