

OLLI@UCB
SPRING 2024

Love, Drugs, and War: The Obsessions of History's Greatest Composers

Professor Stephen Schultz

Mondays 1:00 – 2:30pm

Email: sschultz@andrew.cmu.edu

Class Days:

Via Zoom:

April 1

April 8

April 15

April 22

May 6

May 13

TEXT:

There will be no text for this course. However, please read the main Wikipedia articles on each of the following composers. Please be sure to do the readings before each appropriate class meeting:

Berlioz

Mahler

Shostakovich

Holst

Vaughan Williams

Penderecki

Gorecki

Copland

The Beatles

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As human beings, our lives are affected by experiences we have with love, found and unrequited. And the use of drugs has affected some of the greatest musical geniuses throughout history. War has always been a part of human life, but never on the monumental scale as in the 20th century. And composers absorb and respond to the horrors of WWI and WWII. Students will have weekly listening assignments and will learn to articulate their emotional reactions to the music.

Each of the composers to be studied have their own unique manner of expressing, in sound, their reactions to the human experience.

LISTENING TO MUSIC FILES

You will need to listen to the music discussed in each class meeting. This can be done with any streaming service: Apple Music, Amazon Music, or Spotify, etc.

COURSE CALENDAR

Class I	Introduction Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique A drug-induced portrait of love gone bad	(April 1)
Class II	Mahler Unrequited love and love fulfilled	(April 8)
Class III	Shostakovich War and living under the Soviet Regime	(April 15)
Class IV	Holst, Vaughan Williams, Penderecki, and Gorecki The 20 th Century Reacts to War: From Hell to Heaven	(April 22)
Class V	Aaron Copland America's composer: Modernist and populist	(May 6)
Class VI	Lennon and McCartney The Beatles portray their drug experiences in sound	(May 13)