

Richard Travers Music Lectures
Topics and Descriptions
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Travers Music Lecture Sites

Acton Senior Center

Allerton House

Ashland Senior Center

Boston Public Library

Billerica Crossing

Brookdale, Needham

Cabot Park Village, Newton

Cambridge Homes

Callahan Center, Framingham

Carlisle Senior Center

Center Communities, Brookline

The Commons, Lincoln

Compass by the Bay, Boston

Evans Park, Newton

Fox Hill Village, Westwood

Forge Hill, Franklin

Fuller Village, Milton

Gables at Winchester

Heritage, Framingham

Hopkinton Senior Center

Lasell Village, Newton

Linden Ponds, Hingham

Medfield Senior Center

Neville Place, Cambridge
Newbridge on the Charles, Dedham
New Pond Village, Walpole
Northborough Senior Center
North Hill, Needham
Needham Council on Aging
River Bay Club, Quincy
Orchard Cove, Canton
Overlook, Charlton
Shillman House, Framingham
Sudbury Senior Center
Traditions of Wayland
Walpole Senior Center
Waterstone, Chestnut Hill
Westwood Senior Center
Wingate, Needham
Youville Hospital, Cambridge
Youville House, Lexington

Travers Music Lecture Series

The Travers Music Lecture Series engages and educates senior residents with keen insights into the music and lives of composers and performers of varied genres of music. Each music lecture topic can be formatted to a series of lectures. Presentations can be created for lectures on any musical topic or theme.

Richard Travers earned a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Boston Conservatory and a degree in Music Education from Berklee College of Music. An award-winning music educator in the Newton (Ma.) Public Schools, Travers was nationally and internationally recognized for his concert work with the choirs at Newton North High School. Maestro Travers is Music Director of the Newton Community Chorus (since 1998), and the Fine Arts Chorale in Weymouth (since 2009) performing large choral works with soloists and orchestra. He thoroughly enjoyed his tenure as Music Director of the Rosie's Place Jazz Choir, working closely with the late Kip Tiernan, the founder of Rosie's Place.

Travers Music Lecture Catalogue

101 Blow Ye Winds Blow

The lecture will feature music selections from the woodwind and brass families. Listening examples will be taken from music composed in the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century periods.

102 The 3 B's

Bach Beethoven and Brahms – A close look at the history and important music composed by the 3 B's in the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods. Symphonies, chamber music and choral works will be discussed as well as their influence on the history of music.

103 The History and Development of the Blues

The lectures will look at how popular music was, and continues to be, influenced by the Blues through Form, Texture, Improvisation and Call and Response. Listen and learn about the history of the outstanding performers and composers from rural and urban blues.

104 American Musical Theatre

The lecture will include the development of American Musical Theatre through the years including Minstrel Shows, Ragtime, Vaudeville, George White's Scandals, operettas, the Golden Age, Disney, Juke Box and contemporary musicals. The great composers (a partial list includes Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Rodgers, Sondheim, Lloyd-Webber etc.) will be discussed as well as the famous librettists (Hart, Hammerstein, Sondheim etc.). A live demonstration with a singer can be included in the lecture, if a piano is available.

105 The Music of Stephen Sondheim

This lecture is all about the music and creative process of the multiple award - winning composer Stephen Sondheim; from his beginnings in the classic West Side Story through such ground-breaking musicals as Sweeney Todd and the Pulitzer Prize winning Sunday in the Park with George.

106 The Pulitzer Prize Winning Musical

This lecture includes songs and stories of authors, composers and performers of the 10 musicals that have won the Pulitzer Prize. Can you guess who won?

107 Choral Masterworks

The lecture will include masterworks from Baroque to 20th Century, including some familiar and not so familiar selections. Historical background of the composers will be presented as well as the genesis and analysis of the compositions of each masterwork - Bach's B Minor Mass, Mozart's Requiem, Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, Verdi Requiem and Orff's Carmina Burana

108 Highlights of Opera

The lecture will present the beginnings of Opera and its development. Historical performances, bios of popular composers, librettos and significant operas throughout the history of music will be listened to and presented. Opera Seria, Opera Buffa and Verismo opera will be discussed as well as the growth of the orchestra, the harmonic innovations of Wagner, and the development of the Bel Canto style. The lecture will feature selections from such composers as Monteverdi, Verdi, Puccini, Wagner, Bizet, Donizetti and Adams as well as listening and viewing selections of some of operas greatest performers.

109 Elements of Music

What is music made of? These lectures are to help the listener gain a deeper appreciation for music – from form to melody, from motif to harmony, these lectures answer everything you wanted to know about music. The lecture will include musical examples demonstrating melody, harmony and rhythm as well as exploring string quartet, concerto, symphony, orchestration and basic rudiments of musical terms.

110 Swing Era

This lecture will look at the significant composers and performers of the heyday of Jazz – the Swing Era, where Jazz exploded upon the popular music scene. Goodman, Ellington, Basie, Miller are just a few of the Big Bands we will discuss, as well as the singers and dance styles that swept the nation.

111 Jazz Singers

The lecture will look at the significant contributions of Louis 'Satchmo' "Pops" Armstrong, the man who invented popular singing. Although Pop's is known for his horn, it was his singing that opened the door for Ella, Dinah, Lady Day, Ol' Blue Eyes and a host of memorable performers who invented a new way of singing. The lecture will include singers from the early 1900's up to today's contemporary singers. A live demonstration with a singer (for an additional fee) can be included in the lecture, if a piano is available.

112 Jazz Composers

This lecture will discuss the music of Henderson, Gershwin, Porter, Warren, Kern, Ellington, Goodman and Mercer along with historical performances and biographies of the great jazz composers and songs.

113 Jazz Legends

Who are the best performers in the History of Jazz? This lecture will look at such jazz icons as Satchmo, Monk, Dizzy, Bird, Miles, Ella, Frank, Tony and many more of the true pioneers of Jazz who created a style of music that continues to inspire a new generation of artists.

114 Jazz Pianists

This lecture will discuss the various Jazz Pianists who played many styles of music –from Ragtime and Barrelhouse, to ballads, Boogie-Woogie and Stride. The concept of improvisation will be explored as well as re-harmonization – two of the important aspects of creating a personal ‘voice’ on the piano. Some of the performers we will listen to will include: Teddy Wilson, Oscar Peterson, Art Tatum, Chick Corea, and Brad Meldau. A live demonstration will be included in the lecture, if a piano is available.

115 Music and the Military

This lecture examines the use of music and its important role in the military, not just simply for ‘therapeutic’ reasons or for marching. From sunrise to sunset, from the battlefield to the final resting place, music is front and center in all branches of the military.

116 From Russia with Love

The lecture begins with a brief history of music in Russia, how the music evolved from the influence of western civilization, the Great Russian Chorus music. Stravinsky, Borodin, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and many other composers will be discussed as well as performers such as Horowitz and Rostropovich. The lecture will also look at how composers and performers managed to write and play music under the oppressive Soviet regime. Ballet Music will be included as well as Russian Folk songs.

117 Strings and Things

This lecture looks at things that have strings – from members of the string family to the harp, guitar, piano and many other things with strings. Many types of different music from various periods of music will be presented.

118 Vive La France

This lecture presents some of the most significant French composers and

performers from renaissance to modern times. Composers such as Gounod, Berlioz, Ravel, Faure and Offenbach will be discussed as well as singers and performers such as Edith Piaf.

119 Hail Britannia!

The lecture will include biographies and musical selections from the greatest English composers – from Purcell to Britten, from Handel to Tippett. Choral and instrumental music will be presented to the listener as well as a close look at the nationalist composers such as Ralph Vaughan-Williams and Gustav Holst.

120 Balanchine and Ballet Music

This lecture explores music and dance with a close look at the composers, choreographers and performers who shaped ballet and its music. Scenes from important ballets from dance companies in Russia, Europe and the United States will be presented in the lecture as well as the impact of impresario Sergei Diaghilev. Composers such as Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, dancers such as Nijinsky, Nureyev, Fonteyn and Baryshnikov will be discussed as well as the great works of choreographer George Balanchine.

121 The Great American Songbook: With a Song in My Heart

This lecture will include a look into the composers, performers and arrangers who made the American Songbook an integral part of the fabric of the American way of life. The greatest songs from stage and screen from the 1900's to today; composers, lyricists and performers will be viewed, listen to and discussed along with a list of the top ten Great American songs. Will your personal favorite choices make the list?

122 American Folk Music

The lecture will include rural and urban selections of music passed down through generations from the cities to the mountains and back again. Important composers and performers such as the Carter Family, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez, and Pete Seeger will be discussed as well as new performers such as Allison Krauss, Aoife O'Donovan and the Punch Brothers.

123 Ciao! Music from Italy

This lecture includes some of Italy's greatest composers and performers – from opera to symphonies to choral masterworks, Italy has so much to offer for the listener. Music and composers from all periods of music will be presented.

124 Sláinte! Music from Ireland

This presentation takes a close look at the culture and history of music in Ireland. The 'American Wake' will be discussed as well as the spirit and determination of maintaining Irish heritage through difficult times of political repression. A look at music and social impact of the Irish Showbands of the 50-60's and the growth of the Irish music of the present times. Selections will include the Chieftains, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, 'Riverdance' and many other artists. Traditional 'sessuin' music from the Emerald Isle will be played and discussed.

125 Music Appreciation: How to Listen to Music or "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Music is in every culture and is part of the daily life of many people. It can be used for so many reasons-in religious services, in military activities, for sheer entertainment, for inspirational moments and also, in the elevator!

But do you hear what I hear?

This three-part lecture/discussion series will cover the basics of music making and look at the development of music. Topics will include a look at the Great American Song Book, folk music, ear training, and 'earobics,' rhythmic dictation and elements of music. Selections from the many masterworks from the Renaissance to the 20th century will be included in each lecture.

Lecture 1

What is Music? Defining melody, harmony and rhythm
History of Singing, Articulation, dynamics, use of the music staff
We will discover the influence of Pope Gregory and Guido of Arrezzo,
Folk songs, work songs and field hollers.

Lecture 2

The instruments-how they are made and developed
Study of forms in music-Opera, Symphony, Chamber Music
Music from the Renaissance to Classical period

Lecture 3

The music from the last 200 years-the changes in the production and storage of sound, recordings, the influence of the internet; the composers of the Viennese school and the Second Viennese school; a look at the pioneers of jazz, development of Broadway and the significant pioneers of Rock 'n Roll.

126 Opera: Francesca da Rimini

The lecture explores the little known opera written by Richardo Zandonai, a contemporary of Puccini. The story based on a section of Dante's Inferno where Francesca is married to one brother but she falls for the younger brother and their compelling fate will be the thrilling ending.

127 Baseball: The Music and History

American's favorite pastime is explained throughout its history from the 1850's to today's Baseball teams. Along with a historical perspective, baseball and music will be discussed in a new way you might not have envisioned. All the Baseball songs will be discussed such as Take Me Out to the Ball Game, 'Joltin' Joe DiMaggio, Dodger Blue and Tea for Two. Tea for Two is a baseball song? It is (sadly) for Red Sox fans.

128 All Aboard: The Conductor

What are the responsibilities of a 'Maestro'? What do all those conducting motions signify? Music examples of composers and the famous conductors (and egos) from all periods will be listened to, analyzed and discussed.

129 The Life and Music of Leonard Bernstein

The lecture will include a historical look at the impact of Leonard Bernstein on music. From Beethoven to Broadway, from Tanglewood to the great concert halls of Europe, Bernstein's passion for music as a performer, composer, conductor and teacher left an indelible mark on listeners and musicians alike.

130 The Jazz Age

This lecture will include playing the most popular songs and trends of the era of the 1920's, discussing the impact of the radio on popular music, and the musicians – their contributions and innovations, especially the gifted, talented and legendary Louis Armstrong.

131 The Life and Music of George Gershwin.

The music of George Gershwin has continued to be part of the fabric of Popular American Music for almost 100 years. The lecture will look at his music: his songs, musicals and his collaborations with his brother Ira and others throughout his short but well lived life.

132 Music from the Cold War

Music from the Cold War (1947-1991) is a three-part presentation looking at the facts, films and musicians of a dark period of American/Soviet relations.

Lecture 132a This lecture will consider the effects of the Atomic Bomb on popular culture and music. Other topics will include the Korean War, Soviet propaganda, McCarthyism, Communism, the Space Race, the Iron Curtain, the Voice of America broadcasts and the Bomb Shelter. The country and western music and rock n roll music

of the 1940's thru the 1960's will be discussed; among the selections will be such classics as "Radioactive Mama", "No, No Joe" and "Atom Bomb Baby". Composers and artists (classical/popular) who wrote music protesting the conditions of the early part of the Cold War would be listened to and discussed.

Lecture 132b The 'innocence' of the social understanding of the power of the nuclear bomb will be explained using PSA's films 'Duck and Hide' and 'What is a Communist?' The Kennedy administration and the Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, The influence of J. Edgar Hoover, the building of the Eastern Bloc, and the Truman Doctrine will all be discussed. The sonic boom was celebrated as the "sound of freedom." Music from the Vietnam era such as 'Eve of Destruction' and Bob Dylan's 'Masters of War' will be presented.

Lecture 132c The influence of ballet (Nureyev, Baryshnikov) and classical music (Shostakovich/Prokofiev) will be presented from the Soviet perspective as well as popular music from the 70's and 80's (Billy Joel/ Sting etc.). Important developments of the Nixon and Reagan Administrations will be considered. The Nixon years brought détente with the Soviet Union, withdrawal from Vietnam and a historic visit to Red China in 1972 (Nixon in China-Adams). Political reforms will be examined as well as Perestroika (restructuring), Glasnost (openness), the fall of the Iron Curtain and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

133 Ragtime

This music lecture traces the history of Ragtime music, beginning with how the piano was the main source used for popular entertainment at the turn of the century. The music of Scott Joplin, Zez Confrey, and Jelly Roll Morton will be listened to and performed, including the music of other influential composers, performers and ensembles of jazz and classical music.

134 Nordic Composers

This lecture traces the music history of the Nordic Countries, concentrating on the music of Scandinavian composers Jean Sibelius, Edward Grieg and Anders Nilsson.

135 Opera Verdi

Giuseppe Verdi was an Italian Romantic composer primarily known for his operas. He is considered, with Richard Wagner, the preeminent opera composer of the 19th century. Verdi dominated the Italian opera scene after the eras of Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini. His works are frequently performed in opera houses throughout the world. This lecture includes scenes from Aida, Macbeth, Rigoletto, La Traviata and Nabucco.

136 Gilbert and Sullivan

Gilbert and Sullivan is the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the librettist W.S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and the composer Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900) and to the works they jointly created. The two men collaborated on fourteen Comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado are among the best known.

137 Opera Puccini

Giacomo Puccini was an Italian composer whose [operas](#) are among the [important operas](#) played as standards. Puccini has been called the greatest composer of Italian opera after Verdi and the operas of Puccini hold a special place in the hearts of many fans of opera. This lecture includes scenes from Madame Butterfly, Tosca, Turrandot, and La Boheme.

138 Opera Wagner

This lecture presents the life and times of German composer Richard Wagner featuring some of his greatest works, including Tristan und Isolde and scenes from the operas in the 'Ring Cycle'. Unlike most opera composers, Wagner wrote both the [libretto](#) and the music for each of his stage works. Wagner revolutionized opera through his concept of the Gesamtkunstwerk ("total work of art") commonly called Music Drama.

139 Opera Mozart

Mozart travelled to Italy when he was in his teens and discovered opera. Opera was the prestige genre of the time, and Mozart loved it dearly and counted on it heavily for personal, professional, artistic, and financial reasons. Just the thought of opera, as Mozart wrote, made him "beside myself at once". This lecture will include scenes from the Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, Cosi Fan Tutti and the Marriage of Figaro.

140 The Life and Music of Aaron Copland

Aaron Copland was an American composer, composition teacher, writer, and later in his career a conductor of his own and other American music. The open, slowly changing harmonies of many of his works are archetypical of what many people consider to be the sound of American music, evoking the vast American landscape and pioneer spirit. Instrumental in forging a distinctly American style of composition, in his later years Copland was often referred to as "the Dean of American Composers"

141 American Composers

This lecture will present music that is familiar (and not so familiar) that was written by American Composers. A partial list of composers includes choral and instrumental music from Bernstein, Copland, Thompson, Adams, Pinkham and Whitacre.

142 The Beatles

After three months of national mourning for our president who was assassinated in his prime, Beatlemania occurred throughout the US and abroad. The Beatles changed popular music forever as four lads from Liverpool wrote and played songs for all ages to enjoy. This lecture looks at the historical importance and influence of the Beatles, and the contributions of the 'Fifth' Beatle – George Martin.

144 Motown

Motown, a style of soul music with a distinct pop influence, played an important role in the racial integration of popular music. Berry Gordy, the founder of Motown, took the same idea as the automobile industry's assembly line to develop and produce a recording label that would churn out hit after hit record. Put on your dancing shoes for this lecture!

145 Rhinestones and Outlaws - Country and Western Music

Country Music originated in the Southern United States in the 1920s. It takes its roots from the southeastern genre of American Folk Music, Old Time Music and Hillbilly music. This lecture will include the greatest songs and performers from the Grand Ol' Opry (Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubb, Chet Atkins etc), music from the Outlaws (Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard etc) and present some of today's artists and musicians who are the new voice of Country Music.

146 Music and the Movies

Whether the score is dramatic, soothing, romantic, comedic or foreboding, music is an integral part of the fabric of any motion picture. Music in the movies is an essential element of the filmmaking process and is one of the main factors that helps to determine box office success or failure. Think of a motion picture without music - whether it's an orchestral or synthesizer score, a new hit song or a long time standard - and you'll begin to realize the value and contribution of music and lyrics to film.

147 Popular Music of the 1950's -Part One

This lecture includes the popular music from the US and Europe. Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, Doo Wop and Country music dominated and defined the decade's music. Part One takes a close look at Rhythm and Blues, Doo Wop, Pop music and Rock and Roll.

148 Popular Music of the 1950's – Part Two

This lecture includes the popular music from the US and Europe.

Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, Doo Wop and Country music dominated and defined the decade's music. Part Two looks at Motown, Country, Rockabilly and Rock and Roll.

149 Holiday Songs and stories

This lecture includes the music and stories of some of the most beloved holiday music. Did you know the song "Jingle Bells" was written by a guy from Medford, Ma.? Many other stories (and sing-a-longs) will make for a fun-filled hour. Music from The Nutcracker and other holiday standards will be featured.

150 Johann Sebastian Bach – The Passions of Bach

The time Bach spent in Leipzig produced some of his most famous works. This lecture looks at the historical implications and creation of St Matthew and St John Passions. The Passion of St Matthew, first performed in 1727, was not rediscovered until 100 years later by Felix Mendelssohn, who, along with Schumann and Brahms, championed the music of Bach.

151 The Life and Music of Felix Mendelssohn

This lecture will include a presentation of Felix Mendelssohn's most famous works. A gifted musician and composer, he is responsible for the world having an appreciation and renewed interest in Bach's music. Although Mendelssohn lived a short life, his instrumental and choral works make Felix one of the finest composers of the Romantic period.

152 Politics and Music

Music and politics have always gone hand in hand – remember the song Charlie and the MTA? This lecture covers the many historical and recent elections where politicians used music to help (or hinder) their political platforms.

153 For Lovers Only - Valentine's Day Special

This music lecture presents some of the most romantic songs and stories from the Great American Songbook.

If you have a special Valentine, please bring them to the lecture.

If you are looking for a Valentine, 'Cupid' will be available.

154 Latin Music

Latin Music is a musical category that encompasses music from Spanish speaking areas of the world (namely Latin America and Spain). Most definitions of Latin music also include Portuguese-language music from Brazil. Bring your dancing shoes to this lecture as we listen and learn about the many different rhythms of Latin Music.

155 Feminism and Music

Feminism is a range of political movements, ideologies and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social rights for women and equal opportunities. While the music industry has long been open to having women in performance or entertainment roles, women are much less likely to have positions of authority, such as being the leader of an orchestra. In popular music, while there are many women singers recording songs, there are very few women behind the audio console acting as music producers the individuals who direct and manage the recording process. This lecture looks at women who made important and inspirational impacts in music.

156 Music from the Academy Awards (1934 to present)

The Academy Award for Best Original Song is one of the awards given annually to people working in the motion picture industry by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences (AMPAS). It is presented to the songwriters who have composed the best original song written specifically for a film. The songs that are nominated for this award are performed during the ceremony and before this award is presented. In this lecture, we will learn and listen to a variety of the award winning-songs from all ages.

157 The Life and Music of Dimitri Shostakovich

Shostakovich is considered one of the major composers of the 20th century who spent his life composing in the shadows of Soviet oppression, demands expectations. Shostakovich developed a variety of different musical techniques into his works. His music is characterized by sharp contrasts and was heavily influenced by Stravinsky and Mahler. In this lecture, we will take a close look at his most important works and learn about his complex and difficult relationship with the Soviet government.

158 The Life and Music of Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley was an American singer and actor who is regarded one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century. This lecture takes a close look at the life and music of the undisputed “King of Rock and Roll.”

159 Cartoons and Music

This lecture looks at how music is used to enhance a cartoon with some of the best classical music. For many youngsters, it was their first exposure to classical music. Mickey, Woody, Bugs, Elmer plus many of today’s animated films will be discussed.

160 Nationalist Composers

The nineteenth century was a time in which passionate nationalism was prevalent and which saw many political upheavals. Influenced by such "nationalistic" works as the Hungarian Rhapsodies of Franz Liszt, composers from many European countries became determined to develop a "national style" of music for their homeland. To do this they turned to the dances, folk songs, history, and national legends of their countries as a basis for their musical compositions.

161 The Life and Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber is an English composer and impresario of musical theater. Several of his musicals have run for more than a decade both in the West End and on Broadway. He has composed 13 musicals. In 2001, the *New York Times* referred to him as "the most commercially successful composer in history".

162 The Life and Music of John Williams

John Williams is an American composer, conductor and pianist. With a career spanning over six decades, he has composed some of the most popular and recognizable film scores in cinematic history. Williams has been associated with director Steven Spielberg since 1974, composing music for all but three of his feature films.

163 The Music of Kander and Ebb

Kander and Ebb were a highly successful American songwriting team consisting of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Known primarily for their stage [musicals](#), which include *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, Kander and Ebb also scored several movies, including the song *New York, New York*.

164 The Music and Culture of Morocco

From the ancient folk pieces of the Berber mountain communities to the Arab-Andalusian music of the cities, music is the ultimate expression of Morocco's culture. This lecture explores the rich and diverse culture that is Morocco. Here's looking at you, kid.

165 The Orchestra

The orchestra is a musical ensemble that is comprised of 4 sections – strings, brass, winds and percussion. This music lecture explains the development of the orchestra through the years, the composers who expanded and challenged the orchestra as well as the conductors and the musicians who helped established the orchestra as one of the most important ensembles in the history of the performing arts.

166 The Life and Music of Lin Manuel Miranda

Lin-Manuel Miranda is an American composer, lyricist, playwright, rapper and actor best known for creating and starring in the Broadway musicals “In the Heights” and “Hamilton”. He also has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize, three Grammy Awards, and Emmy, a MacArthur Fellowship and three Tony Awards. This music lecture looks at the life and music of Lin-Manuel Miranda.

167 The Music of Australia

G’Day! This lecture explores the music and personalities from Land Down Under. Dame Joan Sutherland and Dame Nellie Melba contributions to opera, country music stars Slim Dusty and Smoky Dawson and a sing-a-long of “Waltzing Matilda” will be part of the lecture on music from the land of ‘Oz’. You’ll have a ‘Bonza’ time!

168 The Life and Music of Stevie Wonder

Stevland Hardaway Morris better known by his stage name Stevie Wonder, is an American singer, songwriter, musician, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist. Wonder is considered to be one of the most critically and commercially successful musical performers of the late 20th century. This lecture looks at the life and the legacy of a career of over 50 years of popular music.

169 The Life and Music of Paul Simon

During his distinguished career, Paul Simon has been the recipient of many honors and awards including 12 Grammy Awards, three of which (“Bridge Over Troubled Water”, “Still Crazy after All These Years” and “Graceland”) were albums of the year. In 2003, he was given a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award for all his work as the half of the duo Simon and Garfunkel.

170 Around the Musical World in 60 Min

Grab your passport and join me for a musical adventure that explores music from exotic places and familiar countries.

171 The Life and Music of Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin was an American composer and lyricist who is widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history. Over the years he was known for writing music and lyrics in the American vernacular: uncomplicated, simple and direct, with his stated aim being to "reach the heart of the average American," whom he saw as the

"real soul of the country. Walter Cronkite said "He helped write the story of this country, capturing the best of who we are and the dreams that shape our lives."

172 The Life and Music of Frank Sinatra

Francis Albert Sinatra (born December 12, 1915, Hoboken, NJ —died May 14, 1998, Los Angeles California) was an American singer and motion-picture actor who, through a long career and a very public personal life, became one of the most sought-after performers in the entertainment industry; he is often hailed as the greatest American singer of popular music in the 20th-century

173 The Life and Music of Tony Bennett

Tony Bennett's life and philosophy are the embodiment of the Great American Songbook. His career as the pre-eminent singer of the 20th and 21st centuries is unprecedented. He continues to be embraced and loved by audiences of all generations.

174 The Life and Music of Ella Fitzgerald

Dubbed "The First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than half a century. In her lifetime, she won 13 Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums. Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate and ageless. She could sing sultry ballads, sweet jazz and imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She worked with all the jazz greats, from Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Nat King Cole, to Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Goodman.

175 The Life and Music of Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer and pianist, who is arguably the defining figure in the history of Western music. Beethoven moved to Vienna and met influential composers like Haydn and began to compose in earnest. By 1796, he had begun to suffer from tinnitus and was losing his hearing. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the 'Choral' from 1824 was the first time that a composer had used choral voices in a major symphony.

176 The Beach Boys

The Beach Boys are an American rock band formed in 1961. Distinguished by their vocal harmonies, they are one of the most influential acts of popular music from the 1960's. The band drew on the music of jazz based vocal groups, 1950's rock and roll and black R&B to create their unique sound. They often incorporated classical elements and unconventional recording techniques in innovative ways.

177 The Life and Music of Patsy Cline

Patsy Cline was born in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, on September 8, 1932. Legend has it that she was entertaining her neighbors as early as age 3! Her natural talent and spirit took her to the top of the country charts in 1962. Patsy's big break came when she won an Arthur Godfrey Talent program in 1957 with the hit *Walkin' After Midnight*. From there she pursued a recording career appearing at the mecca of country music - the Grand Ole Opry in 1958, and received national awards in 1961 and 1962. Country music lost a magical entertainer when her career was ended in an airplane crash in Tennessee, in 1963.

178 Doo Wop

Doo-wop is a genre of music that was developed in African-American communities of New York City, Washington DC, Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and many more in the 1940s, achieving mainstream popularity in the 1950s and early 1960s. Doo-wop features vocal group harmony, nonsense syllables, a simple beat, sometimes little or no instrumentation and simple music and [lyrics](#). Come sing a long, learn and enjoy the best of Doo Wop.

179 Jazz from 1945 to present

This lecture includes music and musicians from the period after the Big Band Era to today: Bebop, Cool, Fusion, Electric, Free – new types of Jazz that express freedom, the essential definition of jazz, for all musicians to explore.

180 The Music of Woodstock

The Woodstock Music and Arts Fair made history on the weekend of August 15-17, 1969. Woodstock was the apex of the hippie movement that ignited a culture and music revolution in America. Half a million people waited on a dairy farm in Bethel, New York, for the three-day music festival to start. Billed as “An Aquarian Experience: 3 Days of Peace and Music,” the epic event would later be known simply as Woodstock and become synonymous with the counterculture movement of the 1960s.

181 Opa! The Music of Greece

The music of Greece is of unbelievable diversity due to the creative Greek assimilation of different influences of the Eastern and Western cultures of Asia and Europe. Greek music separates into two parts: Greek traditional music and Byzantine **music**, with more eastern sounds.

182 “One Life, One encounter” – The Music of Japan

The music of Japan includes a wide array of performers in distinct styles, both traditional and modern. Local music often appears at karaoke venues. Traditional Japanese music

differs markedly from Western Music as it is often-based on the intervals of human breathing rather than on mathematical timing.

183 Music of Germany

Classical music has a long and proud tradition in Germany. However, there is German Music beyond Richard Wagner and Johann Sebastian Bach: folk music, jazz, and pop music are very common as well. This lecture presents the heritage of classical music in Germany and other German music genres.

184 The Life and Music of Frank Sinatra

Frank Sinatra was a singer, actor and producer who was one of the most influential musical artists of the 20th century. Come hear the interesting life and wonderful music of 'Old Blue Eyes' visiting the life and music of one of America's greatest singers and entertainers.

185 The Life and Music of George M. Cohan

The musical comedy stage of New York was home to George M. Cohan, vaudeville song and dance man, playwright, manager, director, producer, comic actor and popular songwriter. During the first two decades of the 20th century, Cohan's style of light comedic drama dominated American theater. The songs and lyrics that he composed have been passed from generation to generation as popular tunes celebrating the American spirit.

186 Music and Commercials

Ever since the early days of advertising, music and TV ads have gone hand in hand. So, why exactly does music work so well, and how can advertisers make the most of it?

187 The Life and Music of Billy Joel

Having sold more than 150 million records, Billy Joel ranks as one of most popular recording artists and respected entertainers in the world. Throughout the years, Joel's songs have acted as personal and cultural touchstones for millions of people, mirroring his own goal of writing songs that "meant something during the time in which I lived ... and transcended that time."

188 Sousa and Reese/ Military Music Makers

This lecture compares two military composers with different styles of music that were extremely popular in their time. American composer/Lieutenant Commander John Philip Sousa (known as "The March King") was a composer and conductor of the late Romantic Era known for his American military marches. African-American bandleader James

Reese Europe formed a first-rate marching band in World War I for parades, recruitment and fundraisers. Europe, part of the “Hellfighters”, was a classically trained violinist and ragtime performer. He enlisted as a lieutenant and convinced top Harlem musicians to join. Pianist and composer Eubie Blake called him the “Martin Luther King” of music.