Course Description

This course will offer you an appreciation of the revolution that occurred in 18th century European music in connection with the Enlightenment in European science and letters circa 1730 - 1790. The Baroque period, which flourished at its outset, and brought us such outstanding composers as Monteverdi and Handel, came to a decisive close by 1750. As we will see, the Classical period that vanquished it brought us the virtuosity of Mozart and Haydn, whose rational style cultured Europeans found irresistible.

Amid this profound change, composers felt less and less obliged to glorify God and refresh the soul, as their giant predecessor Johann Sebastian Bach had insisted earlier in the century. Instead, their aim, as Mozart articulated it, was to please and delight their listeners with melody. What accounts for this dramatic change? How did the social function of music shift as a result? How do we hear these periods’ outstanding pieces from the vantage point of the 21st century?

Instructor

Gilad Harel is a Brandeis PhD currently serving on the faculty of Baruch College. In addition to pursuing research on the choral music of J.S. Bach, he is an experienced jazz pianist and tenor vocalist. Gil regularly teaches at BOLLI, where he has delighted scores of BOLLI members with his knowledge, organization, musical skill and easygoing pedagogical style.

Registration for Into the Enlightenment:

BOLLI Seasonal Members: $185
*General Public: $250

*Annual members receive a 50% discount.
Registration is first come first served. Space is limited.
Convenient parking available.
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