The Many Colors of a New Musical Tradition

Fauré, Satie, Debussy, and Ravel at Century’s End

Course Description

The end of the nineteenth century marks a turning point in music history. Unlike the most famous German composers of the era, namely Brahms, Mahler, and Schoenberg, French composers like Fauré, Satie, Debussy, and Ravel were more interested in creating moods and atmospheres than displaying the formal techniques developed by their German predecessors. This lecture series will introduce you to the enchantments of this new approach with special attention to its links to French impressionist painting and symbolist poetry. We will examine pieces drawn from a variety of musical genres, including orchestral, solo piano, and choral music. While some musical knowledge may be helpful at times, this class is appropriate for all students regardless of musical background.

Instructor

A native of Los Angeles, Charles Stratford is a PhD candidate in musicology at Brandeis, where he is a Presidential Fellow and recipient of the Maurice Gordon Endowed Fellowship. He specializes in music of the European avant-garde, particularly the neoclassical works of Arnold Schoenberg and the vocal music of Luciano Berio. Charles’ teaching interests range from music of the Western canon to the histories of rock and electronic dance music.

Complimentary for BOLLI Members

To RSVP, see the BOLLI Bulletin