BARBER AND BEYOND

THE POETIC MUSE IN 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MUSIC

Description
From Aaron Copland’s song cycle Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson to Samuel Barber’s composition Knoxville: Summer of 1915, an interpretation of a prose poem by James Agee, great American composers have long responded to poetry. The poems of Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Maya Angelou and Walt Whitman, to name just a few, have made a major impact on the American musical landscape. This remarkable tradition of exchange raises fascinating questions for students of music history: have our composers found ways to uncover new depths in beloved American poems? Conversely, have they at times distorted the original poetic text beyond recognition? Through careful listening and reading, we will explore the poetic muse in 20th century American music.

Readings
Audio samples will be provided in advance by the instructor.

Instructor
Georgia Luikens is a violinist, musicologist, and educator. She holds undergraduate degrees in Music and English Literature from the University of New South Wales, and a Masters and PhD in Musicology from Brandeis University, where she held the Harry and Mildred Remis Fellowship in the Creative Arts. Georgia is the recipient of a number of teaching awards from Brandeis including the University Prize Instructorship.

Registration
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.
To register, please visit www.brandeis.edu/BOLLI