Course Description

The 19th century is rightly judged by many to be an especially significant period of music history. While composers of the previous eras lived on the patronage of the aristocracy, 19th century artists wrote for public concerts, festivals, paying customers, and most of all, for themselves.

Emerging from the rigid, rule-bound styles of the baroque and classical periods, the music that came to be known as “romantic” was written by individuals enchanted by nature, longing for the the infinite, discontent with social conventions, and preoccupied with cultivating the self. The day of the musician-as-servant had passed; this was an age of heroic figures living in a turbulent society. As Gustav Mahler premiered his first symphony, couples danced the waltzes of Johann Strauss, Jr. in the champagne-splashed ballrooms of Vienna. Not far away, in the town of Braunau am Inn, a child named Adolf was born to Frau Klara Hitler. The social and political forces we will consider produced not only magnificent art, but also frightening and dangerous politics. We will consider both.

Instructor

Gilad Harel is a Brandeis Ph.D. 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 The Artist as Hero

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