**Beethoven’s Shadow: Composing Music in the 19th Century**

**Description**

Johannes Brahms was past 40 before he published his first symphony. Asked by his publisher about his productivity, Brahms responded with words that captured the feelings of many of his comrades: "How am I to write in the “shadow” of that giant, Beethoven?" Some – Chopin and Wagner, for example – mostly avoided the traditional genres in which Beethoven had so spectacularly triumphed. Others, such as Hector Berlioz and Franz Liszt, boldly reimagined Beethoven’s forms in order to make their mark. Brahms himself ultimately embraced Beethoven’s classical flame and made it burn bright once more. Through careful listening, analysis, and discussion we will tell the dramatic story of Beethoven’s successors, and how they lived and sometimes triumphed despite -- and because of -- the master’s shadow.

**About the Instructor**

Gil Harel, a graduate of Brandeis’ doctoral program, is a musicologist with broad interests from classical to jazz. An award winning educator, he teaches music history and theory at Naugatuck Valley Community College, where he conducts the college chorale, a cappella ensemble, and serves as musical director in the theater program. At BOLLI, Gil teaches across the entire range of Western music to the continuing delight of the BOLLI membership.

**Registration**

- Annual Members: $145
- BOLLI Seasonal Members: $215
- General Public: $285

Registration is first come first served. Space is limited. To register, please visit www.brandeis.edu/BOLLI