The Language of Western Music: A Listener’s Guide

Description

The 19th century philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer famously praised classical music for its accessibility, declaring it a “universal language.” But this inviting comparison cuts both ways. If music is a language, then its listeners will inevitably need to spend time acquiring it. At BOLLI no one needs to be left behind. During this week-long series, Professor Harel will draw on his deep knowledge of music history: from Gregorian chants to late romantic symphonies, from the elegant symmetries of Enlightenment piano sonatas to the symphonic experimentalism of the 20th century. Whether you are a veteran of musical training or a newcomer, you will emerge from this course more sensitized to the various pleasures of the Western canon and more attuned to the remarkable language of its music.

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.

Complimentary for BOLLI Members. See BOLLI Bulletin to RSVP.