



READING THE SIGNS

An Exploration in Score Study and Repertoire

Instructor: Cailin Marcel Manson

Reading the Signs presents students with an eclectic spread of concert music repertoire, inciting them to discern both the obvious and subtle features of a score when rendered for performance. Students will practice the skills of critical and analytical listening, reflect about what they perceive aurally, and pair these reflections with discussions on context and analysis in order to inform their own ideas about interpretation.

This session will require that students visually and aurally examine orchestral literature, extending the work on one piece for a number of weeks, to deepen their understanding and foster robust discussion.

Each unit will contain both an online lecture/discussion and a supplemental watching or listening list. The lecture/discussion will focus on particular concepts in the chosen piece; the supplemental listening for enrichment will contain an audio playlist for students to juxtapose to the week's presented piece and to increase their aural exposure to a wide range of orchestral repertoire.

Students are expected to come to each lecture prepared with:

- Journalled thoughts about the weekly supplemental list
- Notes on the week's assigned score
- Readiness to listen and learn from each other
- Openness and good humor

Any materials necessary for the study prescribed within the course will be distributed digitally.

Course Schedule

Week One: Introduction (or Review) to Score Reading

Lecture: Score Order and Instrumentation, Melody, Harmony - and some musical "detective work"

Supplemental Watching:

Video: Gerard Schwarz gives a walkthrough of a masterpiece (with the All-Star Orchestra) Johannes Brahms - Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

Link: <https://youtu.be/VIV-yjflrlI>

Course Schedule

Unit One: Weeks Two through Four

Lecture Piece:

Giuseppe Verdi - *Overture to La forza del destino*

Supplemental Listening:

Camille Saint-Saëns - *Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op. 22*

Margaret Bonds - *The Ballad Of The Brown King*

Francis Poulenc - *Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani, FP 93*

Amy Beach - *Symphony in E Minor, "Gaelic," Op. 32*

Giacomo Puccini - *Crisantemi, SC 65*

Unit Two: Weeks Five and Six

Lecture Piece:

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - *Francesca da Rimini, Op. 32*

Supplemental Listening:

William Grant Still - *Miss Sally's Party*

Richard Strauss - *Don Juan, Op. 20*

Clara Schumann - *Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 7*

Jean Sibelius - *Symphony No. 1 in E minor, Op. 39*

Course Spotify Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4CftMo72FHbk0qiz8dqOI6?si=EwMlsLbxTqWqoz5LQLMOhA>

Score Link for Verdi, Overture to La forza del destino:

https://ks4.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/9/9b/IMSLP400671-PMLP55369-Destino_Overture_Only.pdf

Score Link for Tchaikovsky, Francesca da Rimini:

<https://ks4.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fc/IMSLP18930-PMLP19413-Tchaikovsky-Op32euFS.pdf>