



Marist CLS

Favorite Chamber Music – week 3

Fall 2020



Paul Stoddard

Pre-class listening



*What other people have to say about favorite chamber music.
Many of this weeks pieces could probably be described as “poignant”.*

- + Sara Fishko [talk](#) about the Bach Chaconne.
 - o To listen to the Chaconne, choose one of these: [Itzhak Perlman](#) or [Joshua Bell](#) or the [Eastman Saxophone Project](#).
 - o *Optional:* Rapper Dessa talks about how the Chaconne influenced her in [Open Ears Project #28](#).
- + [Open Ears Project #7](#) (scroll down the page to #7 and click on “Listen”) Eric Jacobsen talks about Schubert’s Piano Trio No. 1. The talk is sad, but touching. The full movement is played after Eric’s 5 minute talk. If you want to hear all the movements, go [here](#).
- + In this TED talk the [Ahn Trio](#) plays "Skylife" by David Balakrishnan and "Oblivion" by Astor Piazzolla.



Your favorites



Mike's favorite by Lili Boulanger – [Nocturne](#)

(5 minute YouTube [video](#) about Lili's life)

Some of the favorites you mentioned in week 1:

Schubert Trout quintet – heard last week

Bach cello suites – today

Dvorak American Quartet – next week

Mozart quartets and quintets – heard 1 last week, but there's lots more

Haydn [Emperor Quartet](#) – played by the Calidore Quartet (they performed at Bard last year)

Pachelbel [Canon in D major](#)

Ravel Quartet – this week

Chopin – He wrote mostly for piano alone, but according to [Wikipedia](#) he also wrote a [variations for flute and piano](#), 3 pieces for cello and piano, and a trio for Violin, cello and piano.



Mozart



Scene from Amadeus (based on the play by Peter Shaffer)



Mozart Serenade for Winds No. 10 “Gran Partita”
3rd movement (heard in this scene). The entire piece has 7 movements.



More Mozart

- + Vocal exception for this class – “[Soave sia il vento](#)” from *Così fan Tutte*
Sung by Renee Fleming, Thomas Hampson and Susan Graham
- + *Così* is sometimes performed as a “chamber opera” by removing the chorus, leaving only the six main characters. That’s my justification for including it!

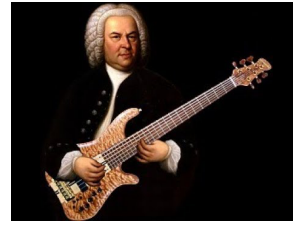


Bach



Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685 – 1750)



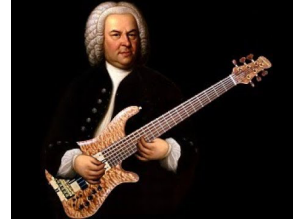
- + The famous [Prelude](#) from cello suite No. 1 performed by Yo-Yo Ma.
- + Hear the same prelude (and the rest of the suites) performed by Pablo Casals [here](#). Casals rediscovered the suites in 1889 and popularized them throughout his long life. They are standard for all cellists now.
Bach wrote 6 cello suites (Wikipedia [article](#)), each has 6 movements.

1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Minuet I / II (sometimes this movement is a Bouree or a Gavotte)
6. Gigue



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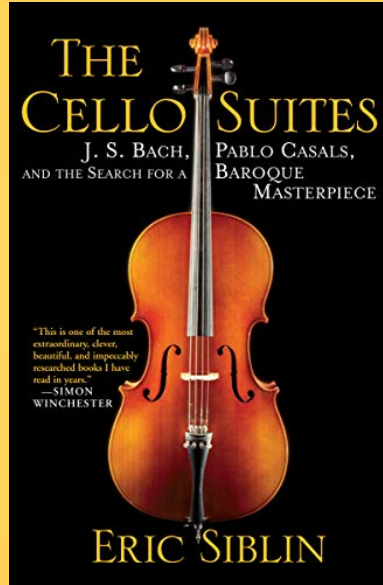


- + The Chaconne is the last movement of Bach's Partita for Violin No. 2.
 - o Here is an interesting [performance](#) by Johnny Gandelsman and the Limón Dance Company. (Theme & Variations)
- + Other chamber music by Bach is listed [here](#).
- + The Brandenburg Concerti are orchestral works, although the orchestras used are smaller than modern ones.



Books and things

The Cello Suites: J. S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece
by Eric Siblin





Franz Schubert

(1797 – 1828)

- + The Arpeggione Sonata, D. 821 was written for an instrument that never caught on. But it's a beautiful piece often played on [cello](#) (Yo-Yo Ma), [viola](#) (Pinchas Zuckerman) or [clarinet](#) (Seunghee Lee). Here's an [article](#) about why it's so popular.



Arpeggione

- + [String Quartet #14](#) “Death and the Maiden”
- + [String Quintet in C](#), D. 956. A cellist friend told me this is her favorite piece of music. [Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center](#) performance.
- + We already heard the “Trout” quintet and the Piano Trio No. 1.
- + He also wrote more than 600 Lieder (songs) which are very influential.



Brahms, Borodin, Barber

- + Johannes Brahms (1833 -1897, Romantic period), His [clarinet quintet](#) Opus 115 for string quartet & clarinet. (Listen to beginning and 7:30)
- + Alexander Borodin (1833 – 1887) wrote two string quartets. This is the famous [slow movement](#) from the 2nd quartet. Does it sound [familiar](#)?
- + Samuel Barber (1910 – 1981) – [Adagio](#) for Strings
Broadcast on radio and TV when the deaths of FDR and JFK were announced.



More interesting pieces

- + Arvo Part (b. 1935) - [Spiegel im Spiegel](#) for Cello and Piano
- + [Open Ears](#) Project #19 by Wynton Marsalis on Beethoven String Quartet #16. Wynton says Beethoven “paid his dues.”
[Quartet #16](#) with sheet music. (2nd mvmt at 6:20)
- + Astor Piazzolla - Vuelvo al Sur - [Tango](#) for Violin and Piano

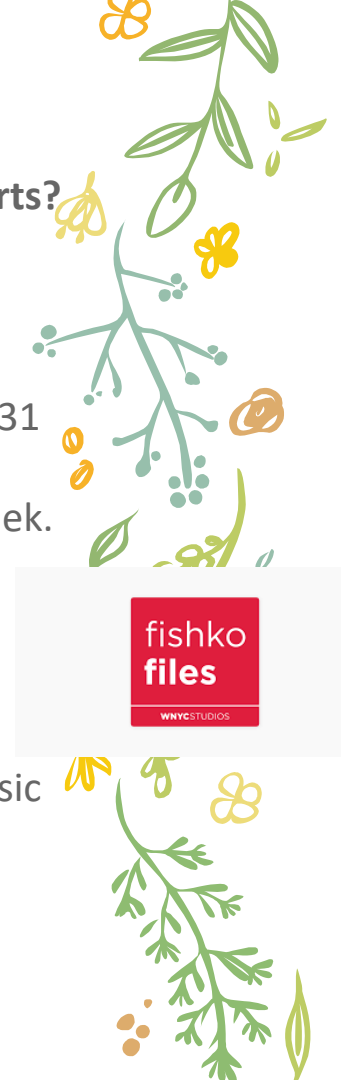


Interesting Online Resources

Are you concerned about the lack of young people at classical concerts?

Read this NY Times [article](#) (Aug 6, 2020) by Anthony Tommasini –
“Classical Music Attracts Older Audiences. Good.”

- ❖ [The Open Ears Project](#) – people talk about a piece of music they love, 31 episodes. Check out Open Ears Project # 5 for a talk on a piece by Florence Price. We listened to part of a string quartet by Price last week.
- ❖ [Fishko Files](#) – short webcasts by Sara Fishko about music and culture
- ❖ [Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center](#) – recordings of chamber music concerts
- ❖ [Marlboro Music Festival](#) - historic recordings



Impressionism



- ❖ Claude Debussy (of Clair de lune fame) and Maurice Ravel (of Bolero fame) each wrote 1 string quartet. Both are popular.
- ❖ Debussy quartet – Cleveland Quartet
- ❖ Ravel quartet – Sacconi Quartet

Claude MONET (1840 – 1926),
Près Monte Carlo, 1883

