

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Division of Humanities & Social Sciences

Winter 2008
Prof. Tom Neenan

Mu 22 The Life and Music of Mozart

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Office Hours: M & W, 8:30 – 10:00 or by appointment
Course website: www.hss.caltech.edu/~neenan/Mu22

Course Materials

Texts: Solomon, Mozart, Harper Collins. Other materials will be made available to you through the course website as pdf files.

Recordings: A Selection of recordings for required listening will be placed on reserve on the main floor in the Millikan Library. The usual check-out times will apply. **Return all recordings promptly.**

Other Matters

Regular Class Attendance is expected

Students absent from **four** class meeting (6 hours) may FAIL the course unless a written excuse from the Dean's office can be provided. Your **attentive** presence in class is of paramount importance due to the nature of the subject and the amount of in-class listening and viewing we do.

Exams & grading

- There will be three quizzes, devoted to Parts 1 – 3 as shown in the syllabus. Quizzes will be given in class and consist of true/false, multiple answer, and short answer questions.
- There will be 3 listening skills evaluations intended to help you evaluate your ability to perceive elements of musical style and form. Listening evaluations will take place at the same time as the quiz and may include the following:
 - Identifying certain works by title from the Listening Assignments (you will only be required to identify by title works shown in **bold** type in the Listening Assignments). These pieces are intended for more careful study than those not appearing in bold.
 - Identifying and explaining elements of musical style in pieces which may or may not be included in the Listening Assignments but are reflective of the music which has been studied;
- You are required to write two concert reports after attending each of the required concerts.
- You are required to make a 10 – 15 minute presentation in class on a topic to be assigned during the first two weeks of the term. Presentations may be done by individuals or by two

persons working in collaboration. **Performances of musical works** may count as presentations for students who wish to perform a piece by Mozart in class. **Speak with Professor Neenan** in advance of his assigning presentation topics if you wish to perform instead of making a presentation.

- By 9:00 am each day the class meets, you are required to submit to me by email (neenan@hss.caltech.edu) a question regarding the reading and/or listening assignment for that day. I will choose one question for a brief, ungraded quiz at the beginning of each meeting which, I hope, will provoke in-class discussion and will provide me with an accurate attendance record.
- Combined quizzes constitute 50% of your final grade (equally weighted). The listening evaluations are worth 20%; in-class presentation, concert reports and involvement in the class are worth 10% each. A grade of A is generally given to those with total averages of 90% or better, B: 80% or better, C: 70% or better etc. Involvement in the course (attendance; involvement in class discussions and questions; attentiveness during lectures, listening and videos; office visits etc.) may, at my discretion, be weighted more heavily than 10% if deemed appropriate.
- **This course is intended and designed for students who have no musical background or experience.** Although many students will have some musical background, those without such background are at no disadvantage.
- Study guides will be available for each quiz and are intended to help you prepare for upcoming quizzes. They may be downloaded from the course webpage.

Concert attendance

REQUIRED CONCERT: Sunday, April 13, 2:00 pm. LA Phil, Ivan Fischer, conductor: Kristian Tetzlaff, violin; Music of Beethoven, Dvorak & Strauss. Transportation will be provided from Caltech, leaving at approximately 11:45 am. Lunch provided courtesy of the Dean's Office. Cost to students for concert and transportation: \$15.

Second concert requirement: Attend one of the Caltech Chamber Music or Glee Clubs concerts in May (preferably one containing late 18th century music). See Caltech Public Events Calendar or other campus publicity for details.

SYNOPSIS & REQUIRED READING

Part I

Week 1

The Myth of the Eternal Child

Elements of the Classical style; Topics (Ratner); music of Mozart's predecessors
Homework Assignment, Week 1: Watch DVD of "Amadeus" in preparation of formulating questions for class presentation

Reading: Robert Gutman, Mozart: A Cultural Biography, 43-71

(All reading assignments not found in the text will be available in the Supplemental Reading folder of the website)

Week II

The Mozarts on the Road: The European Landscape c. 1765

*Early masterwork symphonies; "La finta giardiniera" &
"Il re pastore"; Early concertos for piano, violin, flute*

Reading: Gutman, 72-89
Solomon Chap. 3-6

Week III

Coming of Age: The High Salzburg Style, 1778-81

Sonatas, Serenades & Religious works

Reading: Solomon Chap. 7-10

Quiz on Part I, Monday, Week IV

Part II

Week IV

Goodbye Colloredo, Hello Constanze

Stage and concert works from the early 1780s

Reading: Solomon Chap. 11-14

Week V

Mozart & Da Ponte Pt. I

"The Marriage of Figaro"

Reading: Solomon Chap. 15-19

Week VI

Mozart & Vienna; Mozart & Haydn

Piano Concertos from the Vienna years

Reading: Solomon Chap. 20-24

Quiz on Part II, Monday, Week VII

Part III

Week VII

Mozart & Da Ponte Pt. II

"Don Giovanni"

Reading: Daniel Heartz, Mozart's Operas, 107-31, 156-76

Week VIII

The Decline and Fall of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Magic Flute"

Reading: Solomon: Chap. 25-32

Week IX

Requiem but no Peace

Reading: H.C. Robbins Landon, 1791: Mozart's Last Year, 148-199

Clarinet Concerto, Requiem

Quiz III (All Students) Monday, Week X