

A History of Piano Music from Bach to the Present

Course Description:

With its huge and varied repertory, the piano is a unique microcosm of Western music. This course offers an historical survey of the genre, from the Baroque suite to the modern étude. Acknowledged masterworks from Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, and Rachmaninov are presented, along with great but lesser known works from the French, Spanish, and Eastern European traditions. The course concludes with a look at contemporary styles and trends in piano composition.

Recommended Readings

Claudio Arrau, *Arrau on Music and Performance*
 Alfred Brendel, *Brendel on Music* (A Conflation of his *Music Sounded Out* and *Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts*)
 Glenn Gould, *The Glenn Gould Reader*
 Joseph Kerman, *Concerto Conversations*
 Charles Rosen, *The Romantic Generation*
 Charles Rosen, *A Short Companion to the Beethoven Piano Sonatas*
 Jim Samson, *Chopin* (Masters Musicians Series)
 Harold C. Schoenberg, *The Great Pianists*
 Artur Schnabel, *My Life and Music*
 R. Larry Todd, *Mendelssohn* (Master Musicians Series)
 Alan Walker, *Liszt: The Virtuoso Years*



Week	Theme	Composers
1	Etudes	Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Rachmaninov, Skriabin, Bartok, Ligeti, Hamelin
2	Sonatas, Part 1	Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert
3	Short Pieces, Part 1: Preludes	Brahms, Chopin, Skriabin, Debussy, Rachmaninov et al.
4	Suites	Rameau, Couperin, Bach, Schumann, Schoenberg
5	Short Pieces, Part 2	Chopin, Grieg, Albeniz, Schubert, Prokofiev, Medtner, Carter
6	Sonatas, Part 2	Chopin (with some of his larger works), Liszt, Berg
7	Variations	Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Byrd, Webern, Rzewski
8	Transcriptions; Piano in Chamber Music	Liszt, Busoni, Godowsky, Hamelin et al. Chamber music by Schubert & Schumann

