

A Wider Canon: Nationalist Traditions in Music

John Gibbons

Course Description. This course focuses on the national traditions often omitted (generally for convenience) in standard musical survey courses. The Czech tradition, as represented by Smetana, Dvorak, Martinu, and the Moravian Janacek, and the English and closely-related Scandinavian tradition, represented by Elgar, Vaughn-Williams, Sibelius, and Nielsen, are perhaps the most viable traditions outside of the Russian-French-German orbits. Many of the most distinctive and colorful scores in the repertoires of symphony associations and opera houses stem from these often-overlooked perspectives. Other repertory to be considered includes the Hungarian master Kodaly, the Pole Szymanowski, and the Norwegian Grieg.

Week	Topics	Works Discussed
1	Czech Tradition, Part 1	Smetana: Bartered Bride (1870), Må Vlast (1879)
2	Czech Tradition, Part 2	Dvorak: Slavonic Dances, Rusalka, Chamber Music
3	Czech Tradition, Part 3	Dvorak: Symphonies Selections by Janacek and Martinu, TBD
4	Polish & Hungarian Traditions	Karłowicz, Szymanowsky, Liszt, Bartok, Kodaly, Chopin
5	German Reactionary Romantic Movement	Schumann, Wagner, Pfitzner, Schmidt
6	Nordic Traditions, Part 1	Berwald, Grieg, and Nielsen
7	Nordic Traditions, Part 2	Sibelius: Symphonies and Tone Poems
8	English Traditions: From the Imperialist to the Pastoral	Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Holst and Delius

Recommended Books

Dvorak and His World by Michael Beckerman

New Worlds of Dvorak by Michael Beckerman

Dvorak (Life & Times) by Kurt Honolka

Dvorak in America: In Search of the New World by Joseph Horowitz

Smetana by Brian Large

Bela Bartok (20th Century Composers) by Kenneth Chalmers

Expressionism in Twentieth-Century Music by John C Crawford

Béla Bartók and Turn-of-the-Century Budapest by Judit Frigyesi, Judith Frigyesi

Janacek's Uncollected Essays on Music by Leos Janacek

The New Grove Modern Masters (The New Grove Series) by Vera Lampert

Inside Bluebeard's Castle: Music and Drama in Bela Bartok's Opera by Carl S. Leafstedt

BOHUSLAV MARTINU; THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC by SAFRANEK MILOS

Bartok and His World Princeton University Press

The New Grove Turn of the Century Masters: Janacek, Mahler, Strauss, Sibelius (Composer Biography Series) by Stanley Sadie, John Tyrrell

The Life and Music of Bela Bartok by Halsey Stevens

Janacek's Operas a Documentary Account by John Tyrrell

Exploring Twentieth-Century Music: Tradition and Innovation by Arnold Whittall

Janáček: Glagolitic Mass (Cambridge Music Handbooks) by Paul Wingfield

Janacek: A Composer's Life by Mirka Zemanova