

Erudite Music LLC
Course Catalog

A well-rounded musician should know more than when to push what keys! The courses listed here are intended to help round out a musician's experience and therefore enhance their musicianship. All offerings include listening examples and handouts. Classes are generally 60 minutes long and some can be extended if time and desire exist. Almost all the classes listed here do not require access to a piano but do require a sound system to play listening examples.

If you have an idea for a class, let me know! I'm always interested in learning new things and expanding the offerings.

For schedule and cost information, send an email to leo@eruditemusic.com or call 608-228-7281.

Composers Are People Too!

Beethoven loved macaroni and cheese. Bach loved coffee. Verdi was a politician and had a poodle named Lulu. Often times we look at the great composers as superhumans or even as gods for their abilities to create something from nothing. Their achievements seem unattainable to us mere mortals because we can't imagine being able to do what they did. These classes will look at the human side of the composers and show the relatively normal people behind the music. We will also discover that the biggest factor behind their success isn't necessarily a natural proclivity towards composing but rather a drive to hone their craft and the willingness to work hard.

These classes are suitable for any age level and can be adjusted to suit the specific age group of those present. They can also be extended with further anecdotes and stories about the composer's life and interactions. Classes can be done in a series or as stand-alone sessions.

List of Available Presentations

Bach	Haydn	Schumann	Schoenberg
Vivaldi	Mozart	Rossini	Stravinsky
Handel	Beethoven	Brahms	Ives
Telemann	Salieri	Liszt	Cage

Interested in others? Classes can be created around any composer.

Mini Series

Music is a Language

Music has all the hallmarks of a language. One primary purpose of language is to communicate. This set of classes will walk students through the points of unlocking the communicative nature of music. Session one talks about what to listen to, session two will explore music's character and session three will look at the concept of telling stories through music. The purpose of this is to develop imagination while listening to enhance the enjoyment of classical music.

Music in the Dark

Best suited for older students

In the darkest of times the use of the arts as a coping mechanism is at its strongest. This class will take a look at the musical activities of the inmates at the Theresienstadt concentration camp during WWII. From the full staging of operas to subtly telling the Nazis that they are being watched by God, we will see how music made life tolerable for those held captive. This mini series is 3 60-minute sessions and includes a substantial amount of listening.

Field Trip Events

Come to the Erudite music studio for a visit! These events are free but space is limited. Please register to reserve your seats through the Events page on the website.

Guts of the Piano

All ages

The piano is a mysterious instrument because most of the moving parts are hidden. During these classes, we will talk about the history of the piano and then take apart a grand piano to see all the thousands of moving parts inside! If you have a group interested, we can also schedule a special event that fits the group's schedule.

Little Free Concert Series

All ages

Held at the Erudite studio, these concerts will focus on a general theme and include music that is accessible and enjoyable. Program information and dates can be found on the website.

Ongoing Options

Ensemble Coaching

Piano Masterclasses

Perspective piano teacher career training and observation opportunities

General Music 5-Class Series

Over the course of 5 meetings, students will learn more about specific areas of music. Each class can be tailored to any age group.

Instrument Families

Looking at a family a week, we will talk about, listen to and learn about:

- Keyboard Instruments
- Strings
- Brass
- Woodwinds
- Oddball Instruments

World Music

In these classes, we will explore different cultures around the world, learn about their music and cultural instruments. We will take musical trips to:

- Australia
- Middle East
- Africa
- South America
- Eastern Europe

The Music Tradition of the United States

The US has its own musical history that is as unique as the country itself. The 5 meetings will look at:

- Native American Music
- Afro-American Spirituals and Gospel
- Early Jazz
- Later Jazz
- Country Western

Forms of Classical Music

This series will define and explore these musical forms:

- Binary, ternary and other basic structural elements
- Sonata and Sonatina
- Opera vs. Oratorio
- Symphony
- Concerto

Fun and Informative

Sometimes a one-off class is a great way to jump start enthusiasm or round out an experience. These offerings can fill that need. These classes can be done in an hour or expanded with further activities and listening.

Pitch [im]Perfect

Best suited for older students

How do musicians know what notes to tune their instruments to? How did the musical community agree on these pitches? This class will explore the history of tuning and look at the surprising twists that came along the way.

M&M Challenge

Best for middle school and older students

It is commonly said that math and music have a lot in common but few people explore what this actually means! In this class, we will use a popular candy to learn about ratios and then apply that knowledge to follow Pythagoras' steps in creating the major scale.

Authenticity in Music

What is the right way to play a piece of music? Is there such a thing? Have you ever wondered how the composers played their own music? Take a step back in time and listen to old recordings performed by the composers themselves. We will also explore recordings of music made as close as possible to the time the music was written. *A good companion to the Music is a Language mini series.*

Theft of Success

A good melody is a good melody and sometimes modern artists recycle melodies of the classical masters. We will listen through a number of such instances where classical melodies were stolen and reused in early R&B, Disco and modern pop.

Neumes to Notes

Best suited for older students

This class is a brief history of written music. We will start with very early notation styles and trace the evolution of how music is written down.

Imitation is the Highest Form of Flattery

By modern views, all classical musicians are cover artists. This class will focus on some very unique covers of classical music including Bach with a Tango feel and more!

Humor in Classical Music

A wise man once said, "If we can't laugh at ourselves, we miss a lot of great jokes." In this class we will listen to people making fun of classical music in the most reverent way possible. We will hear some composers poking fun of other composers as well as modern performers riffing on the old masters.

What Is Pop Music?

Track the relatively short history of popular music in the United States and abroad.

Recording History

This brief survey of the history of recording sound and reproducing music will look at music boxes, wax cylinders, piano rolls, records and more.

Music for Stress Relief

Learn a bit about the causes and effects of stress and how music can combat those effects.

Pre/Post Concert Lectures

Are you going to a concert? Would you like to know more about the music you will be hearing? We can arrange a presentation based on the cultural and historical significance of the programed music and the composers who wrote it. These presentations would be tailored to the exact event.