

Class Guide 2021

Class 3: February 18

Composers The Political Animals

Description

Musicians are political animals, just like the rest of us. Beethoven was a pioneering 'political' composer who expressed the gestalt of an age. Then it's on to the 19th-century Romantics who followed Beethoven's lead, and finally we'll explore several 20th-century works imbued with extra-musical significance: Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*.

Outline

- Beethoven to the Romantics
 - » Historical Context
- Beethoven and Napoleon Bonaparte
 - » Eroica and Prometheus
- Hope, Joy, Freedom
- Music as a Political Statement
 - » Shostakovich and Stalin

Listening Guide

Click on the links to enjoy Donato's favorite YouTube recordings.

If you find a broken link, please just Google the piece instead.

[Beethoven, Symphony No. 3, Finale](#)

[Beethoven, Symphony No. 9, Finale coda](#)

[Brahms, Violin Concerto, III](#)

[Shostakovich, Symphony No. 5, Finale](#)

[Britten, War Requiem In Paradisum](#)