

Class Guide 2021

Class 1: February 4

Orchestra 101

You Could Google it, or...

Description

We'll start by tackling a pressing question: just what does a conductor do, anyway? After we've shone some light on that issue (with the aid of many conductors and orchestras) we'll take a bird's eye look at the orchestra from its early days to the present, culminating in a trip through the orchestra's sections and instruments.

Outline

- Role of the Conductor
 - » Tempo
 - » Playing Style
 - » Staffing the Orchestra
 - » Instrumental Balances and Timbre
 - » Overall Ethos
- The Orchestra Down the Years
 - » The Earliest Orchestras
 - » The Baroque Orchestra
 - » The Early Classical Orchestra
 - » The Classical Orchestra in Maturity
 - » The Early Romantics
 - » The Late Romantics
 - » The Early 20th Century Efflorescence
 - » Today's Orchestra
- The Modern Orchestra Instruments
 - » Variations on a Theme
 - » Demonstration

Listening Guide

Don't think of it as homework. Think of it as a bonus! We're pretty sure you'll hear these selections in a whole new way.

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

Broken link? Just Google the piece instead.

Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K. 550

Bach: Mass in B Minor, BWV 232

Britten: Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Op. 34

Extended Listening

Ravel: Laideronette, Empress of the Pagodas

Antonio Stradella: Sinfonia No. 2 Basel Baroque 2009

JS Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major

Johann Stamitz: Symphony in D Major, Op. 3 No. 2

Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 101 in D Major "Clock"

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 in D Minor

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 in A Minor

Wagner: Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

Ravel: Daphnis et Chloë, Lever du Jour

Mason Bates: Alternative Energy, II