

What Now?

Life After Music 27

Experiencing Music

- ~ Strategy 1: Pick a single composer and really get to know his/her output fully.

Example: Mozart

- ~ Mozart's entire output is just a bit under 200 hours of music.
- ~ At one hour a day, that's 200 days -- a little under seven months.
- ~ Mozart's entire output can be purchased for about \$300.00.

Experiencing Music

- ~ Strategy 2: Pick a genre and make it your daily fare.

Example: The Symphony

- ~ Haydn: 107 symphonies
 - ~ About 40 hours total playing time
 - ~ One hour a day: a little over a month
- ~ Beethoven: 9 symphonies
 - ~ About 7 hours total playing time
 - ~ You could hear them all in a day, or a week.
- ~ Mozart: ~55 symphonies
 - ~ About 25 hours total playing time
 - ~ A month of listening

Example: The Symphony

- ~ Schubert: 9 Symphonies
 - ~ About six hours playing time
- ~ Schumann: 4 Symphonies
 - ~ About 2 1/2 hours playing time
- ~ Mendelssohn: 5 Symphonies
 - ~ About 2 1/2 hours playing time
- ~ Brahms: 4 Symphonies
 - ~ About 2 1/2 hours playing time

Example: The Symphony

- ~ Bruckner: 9 Symphonies
 - ~ About 7 hours playing time
- ~ Mahler: 9 Symphonies
 - ~ About 10 hours playing time
- ~ Sibelius: 7 Symphonies
 - ~ About 4 1/2 hours playing time
- ~ Vaughan Williams: 9 Symphonies
 - ~ About 8 hours playing time

Example: The Symphony

- ~ Stravinsky: 3 Symphonies
 - ~ About 1 1/2 hours playing time
- ~ Shostakovich: 15 Symphonies
 - ~ About 10 hours playing time
- ~ Prokofiev: 7 Symphonies
 - ~ About 5 hours playing time
- ~ Dutilleux: 3 Symphonies
 - ~ About 1 1/2 hours playing time
- ~ Odds & Ends: about 5 hours more
 - ~ (Franck, D'Indy, de Falla, Bartok, etc.)

Example: The Symphony

- ~ Total: about 141 hours
- ~ 4 1/2 months at one hour a day
- ~ Purchase price probably around \$1500 or so.

Beyond CDs

- ~ iTunes
 - ~ Best classical selection by a mile
 - ~ Good prices
 - ~ Decent sound quality (could be improved)
- ~ Rhapsody
 - ~ Rent, don't own
 - ~ Poor classical selection
 - ~ Difficult to get out of once you're in
- ~ MSN Music and Zune
 - ~ Classical: don't bother

Beyond CDs

- ~ P2P Sharing
 - ~ Not much classical out there
 - ~ Often immoral & illegal

Beyond CDs

- ~ There's a lot of older vinyl out there
- ~ Still playable...really, really cheap

Beyond CDs

- ~ Internet radio
 - ~ Some stations are free, others are subscription
- ~ Libraries
 - ~ Streaming audio is on the immediate horizon
 - ~ Legal issues (copyright) need to be dealt with
 - ~ Similar situation with printed materials

Concert Life

- ~ Major Institutions
 - ~ Symphony orchestras
 - ~ Opera companies
 - ~ Ballet companies
 - ~ Genre-or-period specific groups
 - ~ Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
 - ~ American Bach Soloists
 - ~ earPlay
 - ~ Chanticleer
 - ~ Kronos Quartet

Concert Life

- ~ Smaller Institutions
 - ~ Local Orchestras
 - ~ Concert organizations
 - ~ Local clubs & sponsors
- ~ Colleges and Conservatories
 - ~ Often free concerts
 - ~ Have mailing lists, so you can stay informed

Concert Life

- ~ Most organizations, large or small, now do e-mailing lists so you can stay informed of upcoming concerts and the like.
- ~ Almost every performing organization has a web site these days.

Reading, Writing, all That

- ~ General Books
 - ~ Harold Schoenberg's Books
 - ~ The Lives of the Great Composers
 - ~ The Great Conductors
 - ~ The Great Pianists
 - ~ The Virtuosi
 - ~ Michael Steinberg's Books
 - ~ The Symphony
 - ~ The Concerto

Reading, Writing, all That

- ~ Program Notes
 - ~ Many symphony orchestras put their program notes online
 - ~ San Francisco Symphony
 - ~ New York Philharmonic
- ~ Books on Music History
 - ~ Richard Taruskin: Oxford History of Western Music
 - ~ Grout/Palisca: History of Western Music
 - ~ Norton Introduction to Music History (volumes for each era)

Reading, Writing, all That

- ~ The UC Berkeley Music Library is one of the finest in the country.
- ~ Just go wander the stacks sometimes...

Journals, Diaries, Blogs

- ~ Consider keeping a regular journal for music listening
- ~ Start a blog going for music listening
 - ~ Can become interesting meeting places for like-minded people.
 - ~ Great for recommendations, ideas, pointers, and sometimes debate.

Online Resources

- ~ Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians
 - ~ The standard English-language reference
 - ~ Over \$2000 in print edition
 - ~ Online subscription: \$300 per year
 - ~ Superb bibliographies
- ~ Wikipedia
 - ~ Tends to have excellent articles on music
 - ~ Free!
- ~ Encyclopaedia Britannica
 - ~ Also has good articles on music
 - ~ Not free, but reasonably priced

Online Resources

- ~ Period, Genre, or Composer-Specific Sites
 - ~ Bach Cantatas website
 - ~ Opera website
 - ~ Mozart website(s)!
 - ~ Beethoven
 - ~ Baroque, etc.

CD Stores Online

- ~ Arkiv (<http://www.arkivmusic.com>)
 - ~ Largest selection
 - ~ Teamed with iTunes for some material
 - ~ Classical only, with excellent organization
- ~ Amazon
 - ~ Excellent selection
 - ~ May be a good resource for finding out-of-print materials
- ~ JPC (Germany—<http://www.jpc.de>)
 - ~ Often the best source for recordings not released in the US

Expansion, Contraction

- ~ You can delve deeper and deeper into one particular composer or genre.
- ~ Take a look at the Bach Cantatas website (<http://www.bach-cantatas.com>) to see how fascinated people can become about one particular genre of music.
- ~ You can keep expanding outwards, hearing more and more music.

Listening

- ~ Reading and talking isn't necessary
- ~ Listening is necessary
- ~ You need never know one single thing about the composer or the piece in order to enjoy it, appreciate it, or understand it.
- ~ Musical understanding isn't verbal
- ~ All the rest is just window-dressing

What We've Covered

- ~ About one facet of one grain of sand
- ~ All the grains of sand on that particular beach
- ~ All the beaches of all the oceans of the world
- ~ That's what's still out there...

150 Years Ago

- ~ If you were in a big city:
 - ~ Maybe you might hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony twice in your lifetime.
 - ~ You might know Bach's keyboard music because you played it yourself, but:
 - ~ You had never heard the B Minor Mass
 - ~ You had never heard the St. Matthew Passion
 - ~ You had never heard a single cantata
- ~ If you weren't in a big city:
 - ~ The only music you knew was what you made for yourself.

100 Years Ago

- ~ The situation was identical to 150 years ago, except:
- ~ There were maybe a few dozen scratchy, expensive, poorly-performed “classical” selections available on wax cylinder recordings.
 - ~ “Jewel song” from “Faust” by Gounod.

1910s-early 1920s

- ~ One complete Beethoven symphony available on records
 - ~ Arthur Nikisch and the Berlin Philharmonic
 - ~ Took weeks of recording time to create
 - ~ Difficult sessions; cut-down orchestra
- ~ Fragile, shellac 78 RPM discs
- ~ Good for maybe 20-30 playings at the most
- ~ Cost the same as the average worker's weekly salary

1930s

- ~ First complete Beethoven sonata cycle on record
- ~ First complete Beethoven symphonies
- ~ Extracts from Mozart's major operas
 - ~ Only Marriage of Figaro & Cosi fan tutte were complete
- ~ About 20 Haydn string quartets
- ~ About 10 Haydn symphonies

1940s

- ~ Most of the 'standard' concert repertoire recorded
- ~ Beginning of 'early' music recordings

Magnetic Tape

- ~ Introduced to the process in the 1940s
 - ~ 1947 first “modern” tape recorder by Ampex
- ~ Dramatic improvement in frequency range
- ~ Made editing possible for the first time
- ~ Long-lasting -- sometimes
 - ~ Certain kinds of magnetic tape from the 1950s have completely disintegrated
 - ~ Especially the case with 3M tape, which was unfortunately in widespread use

LPs

- ~ Long-playing record introduced in 1948
- ~ Didn't wear out as fast
- ~ Much broader frequency range
- ~ Prices plummeted
 - ~ Beethoven symphony now within everybody's pocketbook

Stereo

- ~ Became a reality on LPs in the mid 1950s
- ~ Took a while to spread
 - ~ Most LPs until the mid 1960s released in both mono and stereo versions
- ~ Early stereo recordings still hold up
 - ~ Reiner's "New World" Symphony recording from 1957.

Cassettes

- ~ Introduced in 1966
- ~ Early sound quality was horrible
- ~ Became much better by the 1970s
- ~ Cheaper and more portable than LPs

CDs

~ 1970s

~ The early ones weren't very good

~ Tended to be shrill

~ 1980s

~ Took over the recording industry

The Internet

- ~ Is in the process of replacing the CD and the record store
- ~ iPods and their progeny

Nowadays

- ~ More good music is available in recorded form right now than in any other time in the history of recorded music.
- ~ The prices are lower for recorded music than at any other time in the history of recorded music.
- ~ There was no “golden age”
- ~ Or, if it exists, we’re living in it right now.