



Smithsonian Associates

The Best of Ballet Music: The Soul of Movement

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, January 26, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

WK 2. SYLLABUS & WORKS

JAN 26 Modern Ballet Masters from Paris to the US

He didn't dance, choreograph, or compose, but nonetheless Russian Serge Diaghilev was a ballet alchemist. With his legendary Ballets Russes he gathered extraordinary talents together from across the artistic universe to create new, epochal ballet events that would shape dance up until the present day. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and the United States saw some of the finest creations of the 20th century. Aaron Copland created a score of enormous beauty, *Appalachian Spring*, working with the great choreographer Martha Graham. Jazz found its way naturally into the masterpiece *Fancy Free* by Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins. We also look at how choreographers such as Balanchine and Frederick Ashton used classical music not originally composed for ballet and explore some devastating interpretations of Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*. We finish with the electric choreography of Alvin Ailey to music by Duke Ellington.

British-born concert pianist Rachel Franklin has been a featured speaker for organizations including the Library of Congress and NPR, exploring intersections among classical and jazz music, film scores, and the fine arts.

Works explored, media used:

Claude Debussy (1862-1918): symphonic poem - Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, 1894/ ballet - L'après-midi d'un faune, 1912

- Bolshoi Ballet. Choreography Vaslav Nijinsky. Faune - Nikolai Tsiskaridze

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_LrFJsgmJc

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971): Petrushka, 1911

- Excerpts from Tony Palmer's documentary: "Stravinsky: Once at a Border"
- Bolshoi Ballet. Choreography Michel Fokine. Petrushka - Andris Liepa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVXkBIWmQQs>

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953): Romeo & Juliet, 1935

- Opéra national de Paris, choreography Rudolf Nureyev: Dance of the Knights
- Royal Ballet, Margot Fonteyn, Rudolph Nureyev. Choreography Kenneth Macmillan
- Royal Ballet, David Blair- Mercutio, Desmond Doyle – Tybalt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92YhJ4ZVmCg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtBRN5BXt6o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyD8lCSUPMY&t=137s>

Piotr Tchaikovsky 1840 - 1893: Serenade for Strings, Op. 48, 1881

Balanchine, Serenade, 1935

- Boston Ballet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ra-i_u0nlw

- Sara Mearns, NYCB

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gza2jhUWI2Q>

- Ballet Academy East, Serenade

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNEIRN2f1Qo>

Aaron Copland (1900-1990): Appalachian Spring, 1944

- Copland is interviewed (by artist Paul Jenkins) and plays the end of his ballet, Appalachian Spring

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_LcjNe9fMQ

- San Francisco Symphony - Simple Gifts - 7/4/1996 - Shoreline Amphitheatre

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Oi1XV15h_M

- Martha Graham's Appalachian Spring Part 3, film directed and photographed by Peter Glushanok, 1959.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91y-NEdTj-g>

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990): Fancy Free, 1944

- Bernstein conducts Fancy Free, Danzon. New York Philharmonic From the Young People's Concert: What is a Mode? Aired November 23, 1966

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHPRWEpyxfM&t=9s>

- Fancy Free, From 1986. NYC Ballet. Choreography by Jerome Robbins. Dancer Joseph Duell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ou-O9Awkzo&t=1366s>

Edward Elgar (1857-1934): Enigma Variations, 1899

- Enigma Variations, G.R.S Variation (George Robertson Sinclair), Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, on Naxos.
- Frederick Ashton, Royal Ballet: Enigma Variations, 1968. Sinclair variation/Wayne Sleep coaching Valentino Zucchetti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8so6BvznKs>

Duke Ellington (1899-1974), The River Suite, 1970, Such Sweet Thunder, 1957

- Alvin Ailey, The River, 1970. Trailer from 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDyfWg4PRFY>

- Ailey, Pas de Duke, 1976. Trailer from 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvR3lyTHv9A&t=61s>