



Smithsonian Associates

Northern Masters: Evocative Concert Music of Europe's Northern Countries

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

Geography, geology, wind and weather, legend and language: all play a role in shaping the artistic vocabulary of national identity, and none more so than the countries situated around the wild oceans of the Baltic, North and Norwegian Seas.

The best-known composers from this region have long held a cherished place in our concert halls. Figures such as Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius, Carl Nielsen and Arvo Pärt have shaped our understanding of their varied cultures, exploring mysterious folklore, vast land, ice and seascapes, spiritual belief and turbulent history through their music.

In this 4-session course, popular speaker and concert pianist Rachel Franklin uses her unique live piano demonstrations and fascinating film clips to explore both well and lesser-known masterpieces from the ancient nations of the North.

British-born 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.

WK 2. SYLLABUS & WORKS

FEB 21: Denmark's classical heritage

Well south of Norway and Sweden, Denmark is small but mighty, with a more continental feel. Its composing heritage stretches back beyond the Baroque era and one famed early master with a magnificent legacy was Dieterich Buxtehude. We then explore delightful works by Friedrich Kuhlau and Niels Gade, before immersing ourselves in the vibrant, noble music of Carl Nielsen, in particular his symphony no. 4, the "Inextinguishable."

Notable women composers include the groundbreaking works of Nancy Dalberg and Else Marie Pade, plus we enjoy a splendid Danish steam train ride with Hans Christian Lumbye, and float through cosmic spheres with the little-known, astounding sound world of Rued Langgaard.

Works explored; media used:

Buxtehude: Alleluia, from cantata "Der Herr ist mit mir", BuxWV 15

- Insula Orchestra, Laurence Equilbey,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOMnYNLpt7k>

Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637-1707: Toccata in d moll, Bux 155

- Ton Koopman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J190QpQQfdE>

Buxtehude: Trio sonata, B flat, Bux. WV255

- Ensemble Baroque de Limoges, Christophe Coin

Buxtehude: Fuga

- Ton Koopman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ktw6bYVz_U&t=50s

Friedrich Kuhlau, 1786 –1832: Overture to Elverhøj (Elves' Hill)

- From the film, *The Olsen Gang Sees Red*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuAevxbgjc8&t=219s>

The Olsen Gang (Olsenbanden)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdQdB5EB6H0>

Niels Wilhelm Gade, 1817-1890: Fantasiestücke für Klarinette und Klavier, Op. 43

- Jaehoon Shin – Clarinet, Seojin Yoon - Piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hal7qKdjoWU>

Gade: Morgensang, from Elverskud (the Elf-King's Daughter)

- Choir Världsklass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9SG0-RPpZw&t=59s>

Hans Christian Lumbye, 1810-1874: Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop

- Danish Chamber Orchestra, Adam Fischer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTvP99DauzE>

Carl Nielsen, 1865-1931: Helios Overture, Op. 17

- South Jutland Symphony Orchestra, Niklas Willén

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSUYZHit4oc>

Nielsen: 5 Piano Pieces, Op. 3: No. 3, Arabesque

- Leif Ove Andsnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXV2WPITfqw>

Nielsen: Suite, Op. 45 "Luciferiske": V. Allegretto vivo

- Leif Ove Andsnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atCB09ijpDg>

Nielsen: Symphony No. 4, Op. 29, "The Inextinguishable"

- New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Leonard Bernstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq8-hTa8VAE>

Nielsen: Wind quintet Op. 43

- Carion wind quintet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow0sYQH-8HQ>

Nielsen: Springtime in Funen, Op. 42, Like a grass-green spot

- Danish National Choir & Symphony

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

Nancy Dalberg, 1881-1949: "Aftenskyerne" (Evening Clouds)

- Kirsten Voss & Maren Marie Tange

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnPSC5_Phis

Dalberg: Capriccio

- Danish Philharmonic Orchestra, Frans Rasmussen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQy76IKx1PI&list=OLAK5uy_nip50-cMKeEu1nmfzoK9GrP1w-uh9yHjQ&index=2

Else Marie Pade, 1924-2016: Faust (1962)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28TqFKy4IG0>

Rued Langgaard, 1893-1952: Music of the Spheres

- Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Gennady Rozhdestvensky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REqFSOu0Frg&t=1156s>

Langgaard: Rose Garden Songs, 3 Songs: No. 1. Lekkende Toner (Enchanting Music)

- Ars Nova Copenhagen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KW_7hBjJkk