



Smithsonian Associates

More Concertos: Front and Center!

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, October 26, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

We return to the fascinating topic of concertos with a second 4-session course on this most glamorous form of musical display.

A superb concerto performance is one of the great emotional highs of the concert experience. Concertos can be intimate, grand, virtuosic, or downright gladiatorial. Little can beat the adrenalin rush that we feel when the soloist thunders at top speed towards a colossal musical peak, with the orchestra surging massively just behind. (Just think Rachmaninoff!)

But how did this singularly theatrical art form evolve, and why does it remain as treasured as ever with audiences?

During this 4-session course, we explore the birth of the solo concerto, glory in its great masterpieces, and consider its role in more modern times.

OCT 26 Early Masters

The concerto's origins can be traced back both to magnificent antiphonal works designed for churches with multiple organ and choir lofts, and to the dramatic soloistic emphasis of early Italian opera. Of the many great composers who embraced and developed numerous different concerto styles we feature in particular Vivaldi, Corelli, Telemann, Handel, and J. S. Bach, exploring the instruments and history that shaped their prolific outputs.

Works explored, media used:

Polychoral Splendour Music from the four galleries of the Abbey Church of Muri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcupDlav11I>

Alessandro Stradella, 1643-1682

Sonata di Viole: Concerto Grosso in D Major for 2 Violins & Cello Solos, Strings, Trombone, Lute & Organ

- Jean-François Paillard Chamber Orchestra.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oKY8CpL8y4>

Arcangelo Corelli, 1653-1713

Concerto Grosso No. 12, Op. 6

- Europa Galante Conducted by Fabio Biondi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wogo52iFeB0>

Introducing the Baroque Trumpet with Alison Balsom

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b24w_ykmwD4

Giuseppe Torelli, 1658-1709

Trumpet concerto in D, (Roger 188)

- Dominic Favia, Voices of Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clHxqgJAC-I>

Antonio Vivaldi, 1678-1741

“La Tempesta di Mare” Concerto Op 8 No 5 RV 253, E flat

- Giuliano Carmignola, Venice Baroque Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpQ5bnYGAUc>

Bassoon Concerto in G major RV493

- Sophie Dervaux, Münchener Kammerorchester

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3jYOlM4oto>

Georg Philipp Telemann, 1681 - 1767

Concerto for recorder and flute in E minor TWV 52

- Kore Orchestra, Guillaume Beaulieu, recorder, Sławomir Drózd, flute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODV7JePMds>

George Frederic Handel, 1685-1759

Harp Concerto HWV294

- Sarah Ridy, triple harp, Barrocade Ensemble

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYsGn7Xeo40>

Vivaldi/arr. J.S. Bach

Concerto in A minor BWV 1065 for 4 harpsichords, from Vivaldi RV 580 for 4 violins

- Netherland Bach Society, Siebe Henstra, Menno van Delft, Pieter-Jan Belder and Tineke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emkJ0A7IfkY>

J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor, BWV 1060R

- Lisa Batiashvili, violin, François Leleux, oboe, Christian Zacharius, Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra

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

Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major, BWV 1050 I. Allegro

- Apollo's Fire: The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, Jeannette Sorrell - Artistic Director & harpsichord, Olivier Brault – violin, Kathie Stewart - flute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOsP5gCq3j4>