



Smithsonian Associates

## More Concertos: Front & Center!

*Dr. Rachel Franklin*

November 16, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

### **NOV 16 - Concertos of Our Time**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw an explosion of varied concerto styles and less prominent instruments were finally given opportunities to shine. We showcase some of the greatest classic 20th-century concertos by masters such as Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Ravel and others, and discuss how newer concerto writing has embraced world movements like jazz and ethnic music.

Emmanuel Séjourné's Marimba Concerto, Glazunov's noble concerto for saxophone and the sizzling clarinet concerto by Artie Shaw are wonderful examples of lesser-used instruments in prime soloist positions. We finish our 4-week series with a deep dive into the very process of composing a concerto with the great Wynton Marsalis and his superb and long-suffering soloist collaborator, Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti.

## Works explored, media used:

### **Sergei Rachmaninoff, 1873-1943**

Piano concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 35, 1901

- Yuja Wang, Michael Tilson Thomas, London Symphony Orchestra  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx6uIEDcMCE>

### **Sergei Prokofiev, 1891-1953**

Piano Concerto no. 3, Op. 26, 1921

- Lang Lang, Simon Rattle, Berlin Philharmonic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVoHhmH8bsc>

### **Alexander Glazunov, 1865-1936**

Saxophone (alto) Concerto, Op. 109, 1934

- Paweł Gusnar – alto saxophone, Maciej Tworek, Sinfonia Varsova  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcwA2spaFCQ>

### **Artie Shaw, 1910-2004**

Concerto for Clarinet, 1940

- Yevgeny Yehudin, Alex Nemirovsky (drum set) Eyal Ein Habar, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhm3UqRJFBc>

### **Emmanuel Séjourné, 1961-**

Concerto for Marimba, 2005

- Sergey Nokhrin, Novosibirsk Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Alim Shakhmametiev  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=040SloRbCDs&t=437s>

**Samuel Barber, 1910-1981**

Violin Concerto, Op. 14, 1939

- Anne Akiko Meyers, George Pehlivanian, Slovenian Philharmonic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CveX2LjVaw0>

**Dmitri Shostakovich, 1906-1975**

Cello Concerto no. 1, Op. 107, 1959

- Mstislav Rostropovich, Charles Groves, London Symphony Orchestra  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h23WjKXDe4w>

**William Walton, 1902-1983**

Viola Concerto, 1929

- Antoine Tamestit, Manfred Honick, Frankfurt Radio Symphony  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P23GdaDcPkU>

**Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937**

Concerto for the Left Hand, 1931

- Samson François, André Cluytens, Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fINyZu11NrY>

**Wynton Marsalis, 1961**

Violin concerto, 2015 – documentary “Nicky & Wynton: The Making of a Concerto”

- Nicola Benedetti, Wynton Marsalis  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzxZ4CmqViY&t=26s>

concerto cadenza

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI5baizlykA>