



Smithsonian Associates

## Supernatural Classics: Musical Magic, Ghouls, and Ghosts

*Dr. Rachel Franklin*

Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

What do Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre*, and Weber's *Der Freischütz* have in common? All are deliciously spooky excursions into the musical supernatural, eternally popular with classical audiences eager to experience a good scare within the relative safety of respectable art music. The febrile world of enchantment and witchery has always appealed to composers, and the range of works featuring goblins and grim reapers, witches, devils, and necromancers is vast.

In the perfect run up to Halloween, popular speaker and concert pianist **Dr. Rachel Franklin** returns to her hair-raising tour of some of the best-loved classical music haunts, showcasing works by Berlioz, Dukas, Liszt, Schubert, Saint-Saens, Caplet, Stravinsky and many others.

One of the Smithsonian Associates' most popular lecturers, Rachel has been a featured speaker for such organizations as the Aspen Festival, Library of Congress and NPR. Her topics explore the intersections between classical and jazz music, film scores, and the fine arts, bringing her back repeatedly to enthusiastic audiences across the region, including the Baltimore Symphony, the Easton Academy Art Museum, the Chesapeake Film Festival and others.

### **OCT 24 Haunted Classics!**

Who needs creepy movies when classical music can frighten the life out of us? From the bizarre to the bloodcurdling, composers have relished the opportunity to conjure witchcraft and magic through smaller-scale instrumental and vocal music, and with the sheer decibel power of the symphony orchestra. Other-worldly works by Franz Schubert, Manuel de Falla, Antonin Dvořák, Paul Dukas, Sergei Rachmaninoff and others will materialize.

## **Works explored, media used:**

### **Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901**

Requiem: “Dies irae”, 1874

- Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Metropolitan Opera  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6cogix3cwQ>

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

“Isle of the Dead” 1909

- Jascha Horenstein, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

### **Franz Liszt, 1811-1886**

Dante Symphony: “Inferno” (Eine Symphonie zu Dante’s Divina Commedia), 1856

- Damenchor des Rundfunkchors Berlin, Berlin Philharmonic, cond. Daniel Barenboim  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMwJSI7qC3U>

### **Franz Schubert, 1797-1828**

“Der Doppelgänger” (the Double), 1828

- Szymon Raczkowski, Gabriela Lasota, Polish National Opera  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hnV32b\\_BRY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hnV32b_BRY)

### **Bedřich Smetana, 1824-1884**

Sketch to a scene: “Macbeth and the Witches” by William Shakespeare, 1859

- Věra Řepková  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHpAxuTTKwo>

### **Antonín Dvořák, 1841-1904**

Der Wassermann (The Water Goblin) Op.107/B.195, 1896

- Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Nikolaus Harnoncourt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztKuIupikq4>

### **Claude Debussy, 1862-1918**

Préludes, livre 2: "Ondine", 1911-12

- Ariane Jacob

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kfq-8wA\\_oXg&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kfq-8wA_oXg&t=0s)

### **Paul Dukas, 1867-1935**

“The Sorcerer’s Apprentice” 1897, from Disney’s “Fantasia” 1940

- Leopold Stokowski, the Philadelphia Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VErKCq1IGIU>

### **Manuel de Falla, 1876-1946**

Love, the Magician: “El Amor Brujo” 1915

- Ballet Alhambra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RB7X6HLv18>

### **Igor Stravinsky, 1882-1971**

“L’Histoire du Soldat” (the Soldier’s Tale), 1918

- Benjamin Luxon, narrator, Parlane Concerts, violinist, Benjamin Beilman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR15bGIsYgI&t=426s>

**William Bolcom, 1938**

Three Ghost Rags: “Graceful Ghost” 1970

**Charles Gounod, 1818-1893**

“Marche funèbre d'une marionette” 1872, 1879

- Animation, Leonora Hyeronimus, pianist David Decker

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