



## Art Meets Music: A Duet of Visual Artists and Composers

*Dr. Rachel Franklin*

Tuesday, June 10-July 1, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

### **Week 4, July 1<sup>st</sup> – The Artist as Musician, the Composer as Model**

Where does one art stop and the other begin? Does sound-to-color synaesthesia (chromesthesia) count if most of us don't have it (Kandinsky did), and do we have to understand a Bach fugue to appreciate Braque? In addition, many great visual artists were also musicians. Some simply played for relaxation such as Veronese or Gauguin. Others like Delacroix, Klee, and Matisse were passionate instrumentalists who practiced regularly. How did their deep friendships with composers and constant musical immersion shape their art? We delve into the meaning behind some famous portraits of Chopin and Paganini and explore how Matisse and Klee expressed the essential presence of music in their own lives. We also consider how Debussy and Rachmaninoff were inspired by great works of art, and enjoy the quirky, yet deeply respectful artistic and sporting relationship between Arnold Schoenberg and George Gershwin.

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

#### **Diego Ortiz (ca. 1510-1570)**

- Recercada Primera, Comet Musicke Ensemble  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoWJJryQ\\_CI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoWJJryQ_CI)

#### **Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)**

- Isle of the Dead, Op. 29: Horenstein, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3dxliNpDJw>

#### **Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)**

- Violin concerto no. 1, Op. 6: Natsuki Narita, National Orchestra of Belgium  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Dunj6IKH1w>

### **Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)**

- Polonaise in C minor, Op. 40, no. 2: Valentina Lisitsa  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXuY-ux9fq8>

### **Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875-1911)**

- *Miške (In The Forest)*, 1900. Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Juozas Domarkas  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzEH7xrmflg>
- Fughetta in D minor  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vblDk6Ax3Xw>

### **J. S. Bach (1685-1750)**

- Violin Sonata No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1005 II. Fuga: Hillary Hahn  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdcFNunR5YM>
- Prelude and Fugue in A minor, WTK, Book I, No. 20, BWV 865: Andras Schiff  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4PJJNxHD-E>

Jonathan Scott discussing the 19<sup>th</sup> century Harmonium attributed to Christophe & Etienne, Paris, c.1868, now in Erddig House, Wales

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoWh-Bfo0gE>

### **Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)**

- String quartet no. 2, Op. 10: Lasalle Quartet  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdOmJIEYfy4>
- String quartet no. 4, Op. 37: Kolisch Quartet  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfJcQdUpv1s>

### **George Gershwin (1898-1937)**

- Concerto in F: George Gershwin, Oscar Levant – An American in Paris  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wePBkW6WMM8>

**Claude Debussy (1862-1918)**

- Nocturnes, 1. “Nuages”: Montreal SO, Dutoit  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_VCwKDCGts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_VCwKDCGts)
- La Mer, 3. “Dialogue Du Vent et de La Mer”: Cleveland Orchestra, Boulez  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9DKU7-1CKs>