



Ballet Music: The Soul of Movement

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Tuesday, October 7-28, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

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Week 3, Oct. 21st: Diaghilev, the Dream Weaver

He didn't dance, choreograph, or compose, but nonetheless Serge Diaghilev was a ballet alchemist. From his command post in Paris he gathered extraordinary talents together from across the artistic universe to create new, epochal ballet events that would shape dance up until the present day. Despite stormy relationships with most of them, Diaghilev managed to persuade luminaries such as Ravel, Debussy, de Falla, Poulenc and Stravinsky to compose an unparalleled collection of scores for his legendary Ballets Russes.

- Recommended book: *Diaghilev's Ballets Russe*. Lynn Garafola, OUP, 1989
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Works explored, media used:

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937): Daphnis et Chloé, 1912

- Opéra national de Paris, choreographer - Benjamin Millepied
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p4ZasfcS-M>
- Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2, I. Lever du jour · Charles Munch, Orchestre de Paris, 1969
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCzy161qEzs>

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946): The Three-Cornered Hat (Le Tricorne), 1919

- Bolshoi Theatre, 2006, miller - Andrey Merkuriev
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t7kdcaWBfA&list=RD9t7kdcaWBfA&start_radio=1

Claude Debussy (1862-1918): symphonic poem - Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, 1894/ ballet - L'après-midi d'un faune, 1912

- Les Saison Russes, faune - Nikolai Tsiskaridze, 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_LrFJsgmJc&list=RDV_LrFJsgmJc&start_radio=1

Debussy: Jeux, 1913

- Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Ingo Metzmacher, 2018
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JbQh5gU_Pw
- "Jeux" – from the film "Nijinsky" with George de La Peña, 1980
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INBKDH1I2ms>

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963): Les Biches, 1924

- Royal Ballet, Hostess solo. Hostess - Zenaida Yanowsky, 2012
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAPFKUA7mQI>
- Sir Simon Rattle & London Symphony Orchestra, performed in Trafalgar Square, 2019.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxLUIYgUOm0>

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971): Le Sacre du Printemps (the Rite of Spring), 1913

- San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas, 1999
- English National Ballet/Pina Bausch choreography, maiden - Francesca Velicu, 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA8qp8-dG2E>
- Mariinsky Ballet, Daria Pavlenko, 2013
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0AYF4vgTy0>
- Royal Ballet in rehearsal, Kenneth MacMillan choreography, Claudia Dean, 2013
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ97W_rRGiQ

Excerpts from Tony Palmer's documentary: "Stravinsky: Once at a Border"

Pina Bausch's Rite of Spring: the Evolution of an Epic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7TahSPdF1E>