

Keith Lawrence, Music Appreciation Teacher

www.MusicasaSecondLanguage.com

RESOURCE GUIDE

Free Online Music Appreciation Courses

These can be valuable adjuncts to this course.

1) Entitled “Sound Reasoning”, developed by Rice University in Texas. Knowledge of how to read music not necessary. You can access it with this URL: <http://news.rice.edu/2006/10/18/free-online-course-teaches-music-appreciation-to-adults/>

2 Entitled “Listen to Music”, developed by Yale University. For more sophisticated listeners who can read music. Go to <http://oyc.yale.edu/music/musi-112>.

DVD’s

Prof. Robert Greenberg has created the following DVD sets: *How to Listen to and Understand Great Music, Understanding the Fundamentals of Music, The String Quartets of Beethoven and The Chamber Music of Mozart*. All available from VPL, and there are many more in the catalog. I recommend them highly.

Colour-coded Analyses of Beethoven’s Works.

All of Beethoven’s symphonies, piano sonatas, string quartets and many other Beethoven works are analysed in colour-coded format. All 6 Bartok quartets too! Great for getting acquainted with musical forms.

Go to; <http://lvbandmore.blogspot.ca/p/color-coded-analysis-of-beethovens-music.html>.

Books on Conscious Listening

The best books, in my opinion are:

“**All You Have to Do is Listen**”, (2008), by Rob Kapilow. Very well-written. It features a website on which you can listen to the musical examples in the text. Knowing how to read music is useful but not essential in using this book. VPL call #780.1 K17a.

“**What Makes It Great?: Short Masterpieces, Great Composers**”, (2011), also by Rob Kapilow. It focuses on short masterpieces by major composers to help you understand the essence of each composer's genius and how each piece—which can be heard on the book's website—transformed the musical language of its time. VPL call #:780.1 K17w.

“**What to Listen for in Music**”, by Aaron Copland, (1957). Very clear and well-written. Lacks recorded musical examples like the two books by Kapilow mentioned above. Paperback available from, Chapters, Amazon, Hager Books etc. VPL call#; 780.1 C78W1.

Here are some books with which I’m not familiar that may be suitable & that contain CD-ROMS.

Make sure the CD-ROM is included. It may have to be checked out separately.

Understanding Music, by Jeremy Yudkin. VPL call #780.1 Y94u

Classical Music for Dummies, by David Pogue and Scott Speck. VPL call # 780.1 P74c

Classical Notes (Orchestra), by Richard Rodda. VPL call # 780.1 C61r

Here are some other books (with which I’m not familiar) that may be suitable:

The NPR Curious Listener’s Guide to Classical Music, by Tim Smith. VPL call# 780.1 S66n

The NPR Classical Music Companion, by Miles Hoffman. VPL call# 780.3 H71n

Classical Music Without Fear, by Marianne William Tobias. VPL call# 780.1 T62c

You could also search the shelf at the Main Branch of VPL under call# **780.1**.

The 2 next books are very broad in scope. They cover the entire history of Western art music and the Machlis book is used by the Royal Conservatory, Toronto as the text for their music history courses and exams.

“**The Enjoyment of Music**”, by Joseph Machlis. **Comes with a CD set which is keyed to descriptions (with minutes and seconds) in the text.** Available at Long & McQuade or Tom Lee. You may be able to find an earlier edition or a used copy of the latest edition on Ebay or Amazon.com or Amazon.ca for a lot less than retail. Make sure you get the CD set, though. It also comes in a less expensive and shorter (abridged) version, also with CD’s available.

“**Listen**”, by Joseph Kerman is similar in scope and quality to the Machlis book. Also comes with a set of compact discs that are keyed to the text.

Leonard Bernstein

He is one of the most articulate, knowledgeable and engaging speakers/writers on music. There’s a great deal of material available by him in several media and from several sources. Check out Youtube for excerpts from his “Young Peoples’ Concerts’ or on DVD from VPL: call #**780.1 B531y2**.

Also his Norton Lectures entitled “The Unanswered Question” (perhaps more suitable for experienced listeners). There are excerpts on Youtube and it’s also in book form and on DVD from VPL.

Books about composers:

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians has published a series of short (but still book-length) biographies of all the major composers (and some of the minor ones too) by experts in their fields. They are entitled; “The New Grove [composer’s name]”, e.g. “The New Grove Mozart”, “The New Grove Schubert”, etc. Sometimes they are grouped together by period, e.g. “The New Grove Early Romantic Masters”. It contains short biographies of Chopin, Schumann and Liszt. They get about 80-100 pages each.

Other recommended books:

“The Lives of the Great Composers”, by Harold C. Schoenberg. He also wrote “The Great Pianists”.

“Mozart: A Life”, by Maynard Solomon

“The Complete Mozart”: A Guide to the Works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”, ed. by N. Zaslav & N. Cowdery.

“Beethoven”, by Barry Cooper

“Beethoven His Spiritual Development”, by J.W.N. Sullivan

“Berlioz and His Century”, by Jacques Barzun

“Mendelssohn: A Life in Music”, by R. Larry Todd

“Robert Schumann: Herald of a New Poetic Age”, by John Daverio

“Brahms”, by Malcolm MacDonald

“Tchaikovsky: The Man and His Music”, by David Brown, [London, Faber and Faber, 2006]. VPL call no: ART 780.8 T87brb

Electronic resource: Naxos Music Library.

It is a streaming audio site on which you can listen to an enormous variety of classical pieces. To access it on the VPL site: from the library homepage (www.vpl.ca) click on ‘Explore Online Resources’, then click on ‘Online Articles, Encyclopaedias and more’, click on ‘N’ and then click on ‘**Naxos Music Library**’. Then login with your library barcode and PIN and click ‘submit’. You will see a screen that says: “Success. Your login was successful. Please continue to your selected resource”. Click on that line of text. You will then be taken to the Naxos homepage. Type the name of the work, composer, or performer into the search box click ‘enter’. On the next page, click on the performance you want to hear. On the next page check either the movement or entire work you want to hear and, on the left side of the page, click on either ‘play selections’ or ‘play all’. A new page will open and your selected music will begin.

For West Vancouver Library, from the library homepage (www.westvanlib.ca), click on ‘Research and learn’ then on ‘Databases and online resources’, click on ‘N’ in the alphabetical listing and then on Naxos Music Library.

There are also many excellent performances of classical pieces on YouTube.

There is also a lot of information on the web about all aspects of music, composers and specific works, some of it is on Wikipedia. It is often less scholarly and reliably accurate than Grove Online, but can be useful.

Material on how to read music

I searched in the VPL catalogue under the subject heading ‘score reading and playing’ and found 37 entries.

Here are three that might be suitable;

“How to Read Music” [video], by Frederick Noad. VPL call# 780.77 N73h

“The Right Way to Read Music”, by Harry and Michael Baxter. VPL call# 780.77 B35r

“Read Music Today, Vol II, Understanding Musical Notation” [video] by Wayne Paul Beach. VPL call# 780.77 R28aa

The call# 780.77 seems to be the one for this subject, so another possible approach for you might be to go to the Main Branch, look on the shelf for this call number and pick something suitable

For those who can already read music and want to learn to follow a score;

“Score Reading; A Key to the Musical Experience”, by **Michael Dickreiter**

Musical Scores The ability to read music and follow a score is a great asset in developing conscious listening skills. There are a large number of scores in the public domain that can be downloaded from the Internet for free. The best website for these is; www.imslp.org. You can also try; www.opensourcemusic.org Also, an excellent (and free) source for song (lieder) texts and translations is; <http://www.recmusic.org/lieder/>

Dover Publications has published many scores in large print format and grouped together, usually by composer and genre (for example; Mendelssohn, *Chamber Works for Piano and Strings*, Brahms, *Complete Symphonies in Full Score* etc.). They are quite reasonably priced, around \$25-\$30 and can be found at Long & McQuade (see below). Many of the Dover scores can be borrowed from the VPL Main Branch. Pocket scores for individual pieces have smaller print, are available at Long & McQuade, and cost around \$10-\$15 each.

Other Resources

“**The Harvard Dictionary of Music**”, edited by Willi Apel. Also available in a shorter version in paperback, “The Harvard Brief Dictionary of Music”.

Long & McQuade, 368 Terminal Avenue, 2 blks east of Main St. (604) 682-5288. Best place to find scores and sheet music

Sikora’s Classical Recordings 432 W. Hastings St. (604) 685-0625. Best source for classical CD’s.

Penguin Guide to Recorded Classical Music 2010. Reviews the CD’s. Approx. \$35 at Sikora’s or Chapters or at VPL Central Branch (reference use only).

Book on tonality and emotions; “History of Key Characteristics in 18th & 19th c. music” by Rita Steblin. Only available at UBC Music Library (or possibly through VPL inter-library loan).

Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch They have a large collection of scores and CD’s that circulate. The CD’s are not shelved in exact order so it is best to either reserve the CD you want and have the library deliver it to your local branch or phone and have the librarian find it for you and put it on hold for up to 3 days for you to pick up. There are also CD’s scattered through other branches. CD’s have the usual 3-week loan period and can be renewed for 2 more 3-week periods if there are no other borrowers who want them.

Finally, I want to recommend one local musical group that I consider to be the very finest in this city. They are a vocal chamber ensemble called *musica intima*. They perform without a conductor. You can find more information about them online at www.musicaintima.org.

Also, I recently discovered a chamber music group of very high quality. You can see and hear excerpts from their performances at www.israelichamberproject.org. Click on any of the excerpts on the right side of the home page. I thought the movement from Faure's Piano Quartet op. 45 was particularly fine. Also on Youtube.

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