

Fall 2012 Course Announcement

MUS-T658: Seminar in Music Theory

Analytical Approaches to Postromantic Music

Professor Blair Johnston (johnstbl@indiana.edu)
Monday/Wednesday 1:00–2:15pm in M263

Participants in this seminar will explore research on a body of musical works and style characteristics c. 1885–1925 that may be characterized as “postromantic.” (Allow me to skirt for the time being the swamp of terminological debates about this era in music.) The course is meant to be both theoretical and analytical in orientation. Topics of study will be organized into three broad categories:

- I. Aesthetic and hermeneutic issues.
- II. Musical form and related matters.
- III. Theories of pitch organization.

Works and Readings. Musical works analyzed in the seminar will be drawn from a list of compositions by Bruckner, Strauss, Mahler, Sibelius, Reger, Elgar, Schoenberg, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, and Prokofiev. Readings will depend to some degree on the interests of seminar participants, but will be drawn from books and articles by Carl Dahlhaus, Arnold Schoenberg, Ernst Kurth, James Hepokoski, Warren Darcy, Daniel Harrison, Timothy L. Jackson, V. Kofi Agawu, Richard Bass, Seth Monahan, Robert Cunningham, Wallace Berry, Steven Vande Moortele, Richard Taruskin, Jim Samson, and Charles Youmans. A bibliography is available in advance upon request.

Requirements. Seminar activities will include assigned readings, discussion, and individual presentations; short papers and other written assignments including score analysis and application of ideas from readings; and a longer paper with accompanying final presentation at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites. There are no specific prerequisites for enrolling in the course. Participants are expected to be generally familiar with repertory c. 1885–1925 and with essential concepts in nineteenth-century form, aesthetics, and chromatic harmony. Prior study of Schenkerian theory and analysis may be an advantage but is not required.



the obligatory picture →