

Short Classical Works 1900 to 1950

Your chance to explore classical music you may not have encountered before

Course #	19FSC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator(s):	Robert Cohen
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 2:15-4:00 10 weeks, starting September 25
Location:	Loomis Village, Conference Room, South Hadley
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: This seminar will explore some less well-known short classical works by prominent or less well-known composers from the first half of the 20th century. All classical music except Serialism, or atonal music, is acceptable.

Description: We will explore the short classical works from 1900 to 1950, using pieces selected by the participants. The pieces must be under one-half hour in length to allow for two presentations plus discussion in each session. If the pieces are short enough, feel free to choose two from the same composer. Less well-known pieces are preferred, since the seminar is focusing on this area of interest. For example, Samuel Barber Knoxville's *Summer of 1915* is preferred to his *Adagio for Strings*. Gershwin's *Cuban Overture* is preferred to his *Rhapsody in Blue*. Sibelius' *Karelia Suite* is preferred to his *Finlandia*. If the participant is unsure what to choose, I will be glad to help. I am by no means excluding composers such as John Cage or Edgard Varese or other outliers. There are thousands of works that qualify and would be edifying and exciting for class participants.

Role of participants: Participants should select less well-known short pieces from 1900 to 1950 (again, excluding Serialism), using CD's or *YouTube*. Play and explain the piece, why you picked it, and give a brief presentation on the composer in the context of his time.

Resources: There are many lists on the internet of the greatest composers of the 20th century. This is a good place to start your search. Also, *Wikipedia* has an article called "List of 20th-Century Classical Composers," which is a comprehensive list of every 20th Century composer.

About the Moderator: Robert A. Cohen has a passion for nearly all kinds of music, particularly Broadway, Classical, and Jazz, with knowledge gained over many years of collected records and CD's.