

how music works

a course of treatment for the technically challenged music-lover

Giles Swayne (composer-in-residence, Clare College, Cambridge) addresses some of the questions you have always wanted to ask about Western classical music

e.g. What is a Tritone? Why is Bach a Good Thing? Where might you find a Hemiola? Is Recapitulation a serious condition? If you like Wagner, are you a racist? What happened to Modern Music? Is a Minor Triad a group of tiny oriental gangsters? Are Interrupted Cadences painful? When Schönberg and Gershwin met, what did they do? Is a Neapolitan Sixth a member of the Camorra, or an ice-cream? Why do we love Beethoven? When César Franck was run over by a bus, where was he going and does it really matter? What is the Meaning of Life? etc.

Thirteen sessions, grouped into three terms.

Each session consists of a 60-minute talk with musical illustrations, followed by an uplifting drink and 45 minutes of open discussion

AUTUMN: STARTING-POINTS

9th November, 7.30 pm: **Sound sense & sensibility**

What is music? Physics, physiology & psychology.

23rd November, 7.30 pm: **A jolly (or sad) good tune**

What is a melody, and why? The starting-point of all music

7th December, 7.30 pm: **Reading music: who cares?**

Musical notation explained & put firmly in its place

WINTER: INGREDIENTS & RECIPES

18th January, 7.30 pm: **What is harmony for?**

Consonance & dissonance, and everything in between

1st February, 7.30 pm: **What's the (counter) point?**

The vertical and the horizontal: molten architecture

15th February, 7.30 pm: **It don't mean a thing, if . . .**

The evolution of rhythm, and its place in music

1st March, 7.30 pm: **The colours of time**

The evolution of instruments, technology & society

15th March, 7.30 pm: **The many foods of love**

The origins and development of musical forms

SPRING: HISTORIES & COMMENTARIES

12th April, 7.30 pm: **From gods to God**

Stone age to feudalism

26th April, 7.30 pm: **From God to man**

Plainchant to Enlightenment

24th May, 7.30 pm: **From man to Man**

Bach to Napoleon

7th June, 7.30 pm: **From Man to madness**

Beethoven to Hitler

21st June, 7.30 pm: **From madness to meltdown**

1945 to today

Venue:

The Undercroft, St John's Church, Lansdowne Crescent, Ladbroke Grove, London W11 2NN.

The spire of St. John's is a prominent landmark.

For detailed directions visit

www.stjohnsnotthingill.com

Public transport: (all in walking distance)

Underground: Holland Park (Central); Notting Hill Gate (Central, District & Circle); Ladbroke Grove (Hammersmith & City).

Buses: 23, 27, 28, 31, 52, 94, 148, 228

Parking: Easy in the evenings: plenty of single yellow lines nearby (but BEWARE residents' zones)

Admission (includes uplifting drink)

Single sessions: **£12**

Autumn (3 sessions): **£30**

Winter (5 sessions): **£50**

Spring (5 sessions) **£50**

Buy tickets at the door (from 7 pm) or e-mail

info@gonzagamusic.co.uk for payment

instructions and further information. Payment

with cash or cheques only, please.