MUSIC/RELIGION 370  |  SPECIAL TOPICS: MUSIC AND THE BIBLE

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:15 a.m.  |  Performing Arts Studio, BRB
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CONTENT
This course is taught jointly with the Departments of Music and Religion. We will cover texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, and we will study the musical interpretations thereof by great Western composers. Works examined will include: Haydn’s “Creation,” Britten’s “Noye’s Fludde,” Handel’s “Messiah,” Stravinsky’s “Symphony of Psalms,” and parts of Bach’s “Passion According to St. John.”

TEXTS
A Bible (any translation, though we recommend the Jewish Publication Society translation). Other materials will be provided.

PRE-REQUISITES, ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT
o  There are no pre-requisites.

o  Students will be expected to complete all assignments, to participate actively in class, and to review all recordings.

o  Assessment will be based upon a mid-term and final comprising short answer questions and a short essay. A paper may be submitted in lieu of the final with permission of the instructors.

SYLLABUS

**Genesis**
Jan. 15  Introduction; begin text of Genesis 1
Jan. 17  Genesis 1
Jan. 22  Genesis 2 and 3
Jan. 24  Haydn’s Creation
Jan. 29  Haydn’s Creation
Jan. 31  Copland’s *In the Beginning*
### Noah’s Flood
- **Feb. 5**: Genesis 6:5 – chapter 7
- **Feb. 7**: Genesis 8 and 9; Genesis 22
- **Feb. 12**: Britten’s *Noye’s Fludde*
- **Feb. 14**: Britten’s *Canticle II/War Requiem*

### The Messiah
- **Feb. 19**: libretto of Handel’s *Messiah*
- **Feb. 21**: libretto of Handel’s *Messiah*
- **Feb. 26**: libretto of Handel’s *Messiah*
- **Feb. 28**: music of Handel’s *Messiah*
- **Mar. 5**: music of Handel’s *Messiah*
- **Mar. 7**: music of Handel’s *Messiah*

(Mar. 12, 14 no class; Spring break)

- **Mar. 19**: mid-term

### Psalms
- **Mar. 21**: text of Psalms
- **Mar. 26**: no class; Passover
- **Mar. 28**: music of Psalms: Stravinsky: *Symphony of Psalms*
- **Apr. 2**: music of Psalms: Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*
- **Apr. 4**: text of Psalms
- **Apr. 9**: music of Psalms: Britten: *Psalm 150*

### The Life and Death of Jesus
- **Apr. 11**: the Gospel of John
- **Apr. 16**: the Gospel of Luke
- **Apr. 18**: Pärt’s *St. John Passion* and Penderecki *St. Luke Passion*
- **Apr. 23**: Pärt’s *St. John Passion* and Penderecki *St. Luke Passion*

### Conclusion
- **Apr. 25**