

**DM-A441 -- Singing God's Praise through the Ages: Music that Transforms
Arts and Theology D**

SYLLABUS, MAY 10 – 13, 2016

Eileen Guenther – eguenther@wesleyseminary.edu

Goal of the course: a familiarity with and appreciation of the role of major works of sacred music: their power to communicate the message of the scriptures and love of God to listeners through the ages, ways music transforms individuals and a culture, and ways we can harness that power in worship today.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Music and Theology - Don E. Saliers

Abingdon Press ISBN 13: 978-0-687-34194-8

Christian Music: A Global History – Tim Dowley

Fortress Press ISBN 978-0-8006-99841-6

Plantations and Death Camps: Religion, Ideology, and Human Dignity - Beverly Eileen Mitchell

Fortress Press ISBN 978 0 800 66330 8

In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals – Eileen Guenther

MorningStar Music Publishers ISBN: 978-0-944529-71-3

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 10 — Introduction: Power of Music, Music and Theology

Two towering masterpieces: Handel: *Messiah* and Bach: *Mass in B Minor*

Project I presentations

Review of Saliers book

Reading: Dowley, Chapters 5, 7, 11

Saliers

Wednesday, May 10 — Music Transforming the World

Spirituals

Tippett: *A Child of Our Time* (Steinberg 280 ff)

Project II presentations 1-2

Reading: Dowley, Chapters 11 and 16

Mitchell book

Guenther: Chapters 1-3, 5-7, 17-19

Thursday, May 12 — Major works of War and Peace

Verdi: *Defiant Requiem*

Music created in camps

McCullough: *Holocaust Cantata*

Vaughan Williams: *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Karl Jenkins: *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*

Project II presentations 3-4

Friday, May 13 — Hymns Do Theology, Hymns through The Ages, Carols, Global Song, and Hymns that “make a difference”

Project II presentations 5-6

Reading: Dowley Chapers 1-3 (skipping Orthodox section), 4, 9, 14, 15, 17 (“Christian Music in Latin America since 1800”), 18

Requirements: Attendance, participation in class discussion, reading and written assignments.

Pre-class assignment I: Share music that has impacted you, your choir and congregation in a powerful way. Prepare an annotated list of at least 10 pieces (hymns, choral anthems, larger works, or praise and worship songs) and be prepared to share that list and recordings or videos with the class. Annotation is to include information about the piece, the composer, as well as the impact of the piece. Presentation time: 30 minutes.

II: Prepare class presentation on **one** of the following topics:

A major work of sacred music (Haydn *Creation*; Requiem settings by Brahms, Faure, or Rutter; Mendelssohn *Elijah*; Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*; Poulenc *Gloria*, other possibilities with permission)

Contemporary Christian Music

Global Music

Gospel

Presentation to include: biography of composer(s), description of key aspects the genre, performers and repertoire (with audio /visual examples) (Length: 30 minutes) [Note: you are asked to indicate your preference via email to everyone in order to avoid duplication]

III: Review of Saliers Book: 5 pages (on what points do you agree/disagree, what expanded your horizon, what aspects are applicable to your ministry setting)

Post-class Written Assignment: a final paper or project (choose one of the following 3 options):

1) Paper: 10 pages on a major piece of music *or genre*: the composer(s), means by which the music reveals and transforms faith, the context in which it was composed, and ways you might incorporate the work into a service.

OR

2) Sermon (20’) and design of a service focusing on a major work or composer, the context in which the work(s) was (were) composed, and crafting a service around this major work.

OR

3) Christian Education forum or a class (PowerPoint and commentary) on a one of the genres listed *or* a composer’s life and work. Length: 60 minutes.

Due date for Post-Class Written Assignment: June 24, 2016 Papers may be submitted electronically or in hard copy. If submitting by email, send to eguenther@wesleyseminary.edu.