

# ***IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY***

## **Classical Composers ... American-born!**

*Famous composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and dozens more were European-born. Learn about the history and music of lesser-known – but equally talented - American-born composers. You too can be a music critic!*

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

The music of famous European composers is relished on both sides of the Atlantic; their lives and creative output having been extensively recorded. Sadly, when compared with their European counterparts, the music of native-born American composers of the same eras, such as John Tufts, James Lyon and Louis Gottschalk, has not received the recognition it deserves. But even when compared to the magnitude of the European masters, the quality and durability of these American composers measure up well.

From around 1600 to 1850, most US-based composers were European immigrants, such as German-born (and son of famous 'Canon' composer) Charles Theodore Pachelbel. Though this 'immigrant-composer' trend continued over the following decades, a growing American population resulted in a corresponding increase in native-born musicians.

The turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the 'First New England School' of composers, who mostly wrote sacred music. Included were self-taught composers such as Issachar Bates and Supply Belcher (known as the 'Handel of Maine'). The remainder of the century saw the rise of influential romantic composers such as Benjamin Lang (who introduced America to European music) and Victor-Eugène McCarty (a Creole and the first black man to study music in Paris) as well as – unlike Europe – many female composers such as Emma Steiner and Amy Beach.

Contrary to's preceding music periods (Renaissance/Baroque/Classical/Romantic), '20<sup>th</sup> century' music has no 'label'. Following the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, every art form splintered into a variety of stylistic directions. Composers broke away from centuries of musical norms to write in an increasing spectrum of styles and genres - one 'umbrella term' such as previous centuries's epithets did not apply, even in Europe.

Though 20<sup>th</sup> century American composers also adopted an array of European styles, one important 'home-grown' genre developed to be a viable and identifiable American style of music: jazz. George Gershwin's larger scale compositions are perfect examples of combining 'America's music' with traditional European structures.

During our country's semiquincentennial, let's celebrate American composers!

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DURATION: c1 hour  
FEE: \$300.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated.

Thank you for considering my proposal and please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

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#### REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

To view these, please go to the following 'Lectures & Presentations' link and scroll down.

<http://dulaisrhysmusicservices.com/publiclectures.htm>