

Project #3: Podcast or Video Presentation

For Music History III, Music since 1900
(Fall 2023)



Hi all,

This is a “medium-sized” project: big enough to do some productive thinking, but not something massive or something that you can’t complete over the span of three weeks.

What do you need to do?

STEP #1: Choose **ONE** piece of music you want to investigate. **(submit this piece to me on Fri, Dec 1—1% of your grade on this assignment)**

- This piece **MUST** have been composed after 1900
- **Cannot** be a piece we covered in class
- **Cannot** be your guest DJ example
- **Cannot** be a piece you wrote about in your Project #1 or Project #2
- This piece of music **should** probably be at least 2-3 minutes long, just in order to help you out.
- Anything else is fair game! Any genre—but pick something you’re excited to talk about, and something you have lots to say about....

STEP #2: Turn in a **BIBLIOGRAPHY**: this can include materials you’ve used, or further readings on your topic **(submit this to me on Friday, December 8—3% of your grade on this assignment)**

- Your bibliography should include at least **THREE** items (you may have more).
- Of these, I want **ONE** of them to be a scholarly source (published by a university press).
- Having problems? Remember that your scholarly source doesn’t need to be about EVERY element of your piece: it could be about an issue related to your piece, something about the genre you’re working on, something related to other works by your selected musician, etc.
- Citation method: I don’t massively care whether you use Chicago, MLA, Turabian.....use whatever you know and can get correct

Step #3: due Friday, December 15, 11:59pm
(12% of the assignment grade)

Complete **ONE** of the following on your piece:

Option A: Podcast, somewhere between 7-10 minutes. This would include some polished spoken presentation from you and some audio examples.

Option B: Video presentation, somewhere between 7-10 minutes. This would include some polished spoken presentation from you, some audio examples, and some visual elements (slides, video examples, etc).

Please choose the option that most appeals to you—or seems the least stressful!—and have fun with it :)

Tips, Notes, and Rules:

1. **Make sure to include some brief music examples**—but this shouldn’t be more than 1-2 minutes of music at absolute maximum (short snippets are better, not long excerpts).
2. This should not be a “book report,” but should include some analytical thought on your part, some analysis, some bigger picture demonstration of your continuing work and thought as a musician, educator, performer, etc.
3. You are most welcome to involve other people in your project (have a guest on your podcast, for example), but you need to do your own work (these aren’t jointly graded projects)
4. I don’t care how you record this; you may use any recording medium—I’m not judging on quality of sound. Many cell phones have apps for recording. You could also try web-based services such as Vocaroo (vocaroo.com) or Audacity (audacityteam.org). Let me know if you have questions about this and I may be able to guide you to some resources.

In your podcast or presentation, you should discuss your chosen piece by putting together some mixture of the following:

- **Composer biography** (or maybe even famous performer biography or famous ensemble biography)
- **How/when** the piece was composed or commissioned
- **Performance history:** when was it first done, or who has famously performed it?
- **Reception history:** did people always like this piece, or did it have ups and downs in its popularity?
- **Subject matter of the piece**, if relevant. Is it programmatic?
- **Lyrical meaning**, if relevant
- **Some things to listen for in the piece of music**—please note, this should **not** be a blow-by-blow “then this happened, then this happens, etc.” Pick a couple things to point out to your listener.
- **Anything interesting connected to the piece**—has it been used in a movie or video game? Did someone make a really famous recording of it? etc etc
- **Any large-scale issues** that are connected to the piece—much like we’ve been discussing as our “big picture questions” in class.
- **Things YOU like** or find intriguing about the piece. Is there a passage that’s been particularly hard to figure out? A section that you just swoon over? A personal touch is fabulous here!

Please balance your presentation carefully (you don’t want to spend 8 minutes in minute detail on biography).

Where do I look up stuff to include?

So we all need to learn how to pull together various sources to do this kind of stuff, and it’s okay (even important) to understand the roles that various sources play. TLDR: of course we can use things like Wikipedia to launch ourselves, but WHAT ELSE?

- Composer webpages
- Interviews with the composer or other performers of the work
- Program notes written by other people: note these can be super helpful, but tread carefully here and **DO NOT JUST COPY THE WORDS OF OTHERS**—plagiarism isn’t just a college grade downer, it can actually lose anyone their job!
- Newspaper coverage

Scholarly articles:

- **This step is required—make sure you check a couple of the databases below.**
- go to <https://library.potsdam.edu/music> You’ll notice there are search engines for “Music Periodicals Database,” “Music Index,” “RILM Abstracts,” and “JSTOR.” Look up your piece or other related search terms in one or more of these databases and see what pops up.

Books:

- Try Bearcat (our local library): <https://library.potsdam.edu/home>
- Try Worldcat (libraries worldwide): <https://library.potsdam.edu/home>
- Google Books
- Drawing a blank? Make an appointment with me and I will help you! I love research (it’s nerdy fabulous fun) and love learning about your pieces :)