

## **The Symphony After Beethoven**

**Coordinator: James Smith**

Beethoven redefined the symphony, just as romanticism was redefining music. We take a colorful tour through the changes in the form after the master died, charting its course stylistically, formally, and programmatically, paying special attention to how each composer expanded the sonic potential of the orchestra. We gain a deeper understanding of the formal, stylistic, and programmatic developments in the symphonic form from 1825 to the present. Experience the continuing power of the symphony to deeply move us, as we examine why it remains the most popular genre of classical music.

### **Readings and other Required Materials:**

Listening will be done through Youtube online selections. Internet readings will be assigned.

**James Smith** has coordinated many study groups on classical music and opera. He spent his career in the area of adult learning and development.

### **\* \* \* \* \* Syllabus \* \* \* \* \***

Week 1: Schubert, Symphony No.8 “Unfinished,” and No.9 “The Great”

Week 2: Schumann, Symphony No.3 “Rhenish”;  
Berlioz “Symphonie Fantastique”

Week 3: Brahms, Symphony No.1 and No.2

Week 4: Brahms, Symphony No.3 and No.4

Week 5: Dvorak, Symphony No.8 and 9

Week 6: Bruckner, Symphony No.4 and No.8

Week 7: Tchaikovsky, “Pathetique”

Week 8: Mahler, Symphony No.4

Week 9: Sibelius, Symphony No.2 and No.4

Week 10: Vaughan Williams, Symphony No. 1 and 6

Week 11: Prokofiev, Symphony No.1 and No.5; Ives Symphony No.3

Week 12: Shostakovich, Symphony No.5 and No.10