

Senior Citizens Music Appreciation Program

Date: December 15, 2025

Time: 10:30-noon

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Anton Bruckner: A Simple Man with Big Ideas

I. Announcements

- A. NJ Symphony Concert: Recommend concert of March 15, 2026 at State Theatre, New Brunswick (Bartok and Chopin)—Update today

II. Who Was Anton Bruckner? (1824-1896)

- A. Born in Ansfeldan, Austria—studied violin and organ with his father, a local schoolteacher. After his father’s death in 1837, he became a chorister at the monastery-school of St. Florian in Austria.
- B. Concerned he could not make ends meet as a musician, Bruckner became a school teacher and by 1848 he was the organist at St. Florian’s, moving on to become the organist at the Linz Cathedral in 1855.
- C. Bruckner studied with the Viennese pedagogue Simon Sechter and Otto Kitzler, who introduced him to the music of Richard Wagner, who became a key influence on Bruckner’s musical development.
- D. Bruckner moved to Vienna in 1868, accepting his former teacher Sechter’s position at the Conservatory, and from 1875 onwards he also taught at the University of Vienna.
- E. Bruckner composed nine symphonies, one string quartet, many organ works, a Te Deum and other works for a capella chorus and chorus and instrumental ensembles (for example, a Mass for voices and wind ensemble). The greatest of these works were created after 1863, but Bruckner struggled to gain acceptance of his symphonies, which although following a standard four movement design, were in a different “sound world” than symphonies composed by his contemporaries.
- F. Bruckner died in 1896 from heart failure and is buried in the crypt at St. Florian.

- III. **Musical Selections**—Bruckner’s music was deeply influenced by his Catholic faith, and much of his organ music and vocal compositions were performed in church settings. His symphonies, which were resisted by musicians and audiences due to their length and the “organ-like” sonorities embedded in the scores, gradually gained more attention and praise in the late 1870s. Today, Bruckner’s symphonies are played by all of the world’s greatest orchestras and his vocal music is highly regarded by choral directors and singers.

Quote from Wikipedia article on Bruckner's life: “Bruckner's style of orchestral writing was criticized by his Viennese contemporaries (Eduard Hanslick and his circle), but by the middle of the twentieth century, musicologists recognized that his orchestration was modelled after the sound of his primary instrument, the pipe organ, *i.e.*, alternating between two groups of instruments, as when changing from one manual of the organ to another.

- A. A Capella Vocal Works: Motets Locus Iste and Ave Maria
- B. Mass in E Minor for Chorus and Wind Ensemble (2 movements)
- C. Psalm 114 for Five Part Choir and Trombones
- D. Symphony No. 4 “Romantic” Opening and Third Movement (Film, CD)
- E. Symphony NO. 6: Scherzo Movement (film)
- F. Symphony No. 7: Selections from Adagio (2nd movement)
- G. Symphony No. 8: First Movement (Selection)
- H. Symphony No. 9: Selection from Final (3rd) Movement

IV. Today's Recordings

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| A. Bruckner: Mass in E Minor, Motets | Sony Classical SK 48037 |
| B. Anton Bruckner: Requiem | Hyperion CDA66245 |
| C. Anton Bruckner, Symphony 4 | Universal B0004124-02 |
| D. Bruckner, Symphony 7 | CSO Resound CSOR 901 704 |
| E. Bruckner, Symphony 8 | Music and Arts CD 624 |
| F. Bruckner, Symphony 9 | DG 427 345-2 |
| G. Rafael Kubelik, Portrait | DG 00440 073 4325 |
| H. Sergiu Celibidache Conducts Bruckner | Sony Classical 88691962709 |

V. Sources

- A. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2014/apr/01/sex-death-dissonance-anton-bruckner-concertgebouw-orchestra>
- B. <https://holocaustmusic.ort.org/politics-and-propaganda/third-reich/bruckner-anton/>
- C. Wikipedia Article on Bruckner: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Bruckner

VI. YouTube Films

- A. Bruckner Motet: Locus Iste
<https://youtu.be/udZCjXbwkzk?si=CKqhAcLxuhm26K60>
- B. Symphony No. 9, Vienna Philharmonic, conductor Leonard Bernstein
https://youtu.be/swULVZ5zLkM?si=q7xV9_QEkVLQ91uI

- C. Te Deum, Pablo Heras Casado conducting Collegium Musicum Berlin
<https://youtu.be/MLUsUHU5gFs?si=c1ituZWkmSCY2V22>
- D. Symphony No. 5, Marek Janowski conducting WDR Symphony
<https://youtu.be/ScYsKbcvJMU?si=jQvAclP23Pd3Sp-F>

Time: January 12, 2026 10:30-noon

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