

The Symphonies of Gustav Mahler

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January 23–May 2, 2023; Tuesdays, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.

Overview: The monumental symphonies of Gustav Mahler (1860–1911), which have captivated and challenged musicians and audiences for more than a hundred years, stand as landmark works of the late-19th and early-20th centuries. In each of the unique works, Mahler drew heavily on the established Romantic musical tradition but also expanded the landscape of the symphony as a musical genre in unprecedented ways. Primarily through lectures and listening to recordings of excerpts, we will explore all ten of Mahler’s completed symphonies (including *Das Lied von der Erde*) to consider their compositional circumstances, inner musical workings, broader meanings, and reception. In doing so, we will investigate the inspirations behind these unique works, which include Mahler’s own experiences and other works by Mahler himself and his colleagues and predecessors. We will also discover how each of these symphonies shaped the works of later 20th-century composers, flourished (and at times floundered) in the concert hall, and permeated popular culture.

Reading, Listening, and Viewing: All materials can be accessed online through links or uploads in the course Box folder, or through publicly accessible websites. No preparatory reading or listening is required for each session, but before each session, you are encouraged to read brief discussions of each symphony in program notes and to view or listen to performances of these works (each approximately an hour long) available on YouTube. Specific links to these materials will be provided each week.

Class Meeting Topics:

- 1) January 23: Symphony No. 1, “Titan”
- 2) January 30: Symphony No. 2, “Resurrection”
- 3) February 6: Symphony No. 3
- 4) February 13: Symphony No. 4
- 5) February 20: Symphony No. 5
- 6) February 27: Symphony No. 6, “Tragic”
- [NO CLASS March 5 — SPRING BREAK]**
- 7) March 12: Symphony No. 7
- 8) March 19: Symphony No. 8, “Symphony of a Thousand”
- 9) March 26: *Das Lied von der Erde* (*The Song of the Earth*)
- 10) April 2: Symphony No. 9 (and the unfinished Symphony No. 10)

Instructor Bio: Matthew Mugmon is Associate Professor of Musicology at the University of Arizona. He has served as the New York Philharmonic’s Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence, and his research appears in the *Journal of Musicology*, *Music & Letters*, the *Journal of Musicological Research*, and the essay collection *Rethinking Mahler*. His monograph *Aaron Copland and the American Legacy of Gustav Mahler* was published in 2019 by the University of Rochester Press. Dr. Mugmon is a Distinguished Fellow with the Center for University Education Scholarship for a project whose goal is to explore the role of archives in the teaching of undergraduate students. In 2018 he earned the Charles and Irene Putnam Award for Excellence in Teaching.