

1918: War, Peace, and the Piano

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MTNA National Conference, Orlando, FL, March 18, 2018

Timeline 1918:

World Events:

- WW I Armistice signed Nov. 11, 1918
- Bolsheviks cement their power in the Russian Revolution 1917-1918
- Spanish flu pandemic claims 20,000,000 lives, (1918 – 1919)

Musical Events:

- Dr. Karl Muck, the German-born conductor of the Boston Symphony, is arrested as an enemy alien and imprisoned until the end of the war
- Founding of Arnold Schoenberg's Society for Private Musical Performances (*Verein für musikalische Privataufführungen*) December, 1918
- First American jazz recordings issued: 1917-18

Musicians:

Births:

- Leonard Bernstein (d. 1990)
- Birgit Nilsson (d. 2005)
- George Rochberg (d. 2005)
- Gérard Souzay (d. 2004)

Deaths:

- Claude Debussy (b. 1862)
- Lili Boulanger (b. 1893)
- Alexander Taneyev (b. 1850),
- Théo Ysaye (b. 1865)

Artists:

Deaths:

- Gustav Klimt, Austrian painter and founding member of Vienna Secession (b. 1862)
- Koloman Moser, Austrian artist and co- founder of the Wiener Werkstätte with Joseph Hoffmann (b. 1868)
- Egon Schiele, Austrian painter, member of Vienna Secession (b. 1890)
- Otto Wagner, Austrian architect, member of Vienna Secession (b. 1841)

Writers:

Deaths:

- Wilfred Owen English, WW I poet, killed in action (b. 1893)
- Guillaume Apollinaire, French writer, acquaintance of Debussy (b. 1880)
- Edmond Rostand, French writer, author of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (b. 1868)

To Read:

- French: Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) and Marcel Proust (1871-1922)
- Russian: Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) and Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)
- Austrian: Arthur Schnitzler (1862-1931) and Stefan Zweig (1881-1942)

To See:

- French: Odilon Redon (1840-1916), Matisse (1869-1954), Picasso (Spanish, but lived in France)(1881-1973)
- Russian: Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944), Kazimir Malevich (1879-1935)
- Austrian: Klimt (1862-1918), Egon Schiele (1890-1918), Oskar Kokoshka (1886-1980)

Musical Examples:

- Claude Debussy (1862-1918): *“Les soirs illuminés par l’ardeur de charbon”* (1917)
- Erik Satie (1866-1925): *Parade* (1916-1917)
- Francis Poulenc (1899-1963): *Waltz in C Major, Mouvements perpétuels* (1919)
- Maurice Ravel (1875-1937): *La Valse* (1919-1920)
- Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915): *Preludes, Op. 74* (1914)
- Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943): *Three Pieces (Prelude in D Minor, Oriental Sketch, Fragments)*, (1917), arrangement of *Star-Spangled Banner* (1918)
- Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953): *Tales of the Old Grandmother, Op. 31*(1918)
- Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942): *Cinq Etudes de jazz* (1910-1920)
- Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951): *Fünf Klavierstücke, Op. 23* (1920-1923)

Other Resources:

Historical Books:

Fin-de Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture by Carl Schorske (Vintage Books, 1981)

Schnitzler’s Century by Peter Gay ((Norton and Company, 2002)

Debussy’s Paris: Piano Portraits of the Belle Époque by Catherine Kautsky (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017)

Scriabin by Faubion Bowers (Dover, 1996)

The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture edited by Nicholas Rzhevsky (Cambridge University Press, 1998)

Museums:

Musée d’Orsay, Paris

<http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html>

Leopold Museum, Vienna

<http://www.leopoldmuseum.org/en/exhibitions/21/vienna-1900>

Belvedere Museum Vienna <https://www.belvedere.at/gustav-klimt>

Vienna: Exhibitions on the theme of the year for 2018: Beauty and the Abyss:

<https://www.wien.info/en/sightseeing/vienna-2018/vienna-2018-exhibitions>

Scriabin Museum, Moscow

<http://www.componisten.net/downloads/A.N.%20Scriabin%20Memorial%20Museum.pdf>

Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

<http://en.rusmuseum.ru>