

Music, Dreams and Mystics: Connections Explored, MTNA, Reno, Nevada, March 26, 2023

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<https://www.wondrium.com/great-piano-works-explained>

This session looks at the role of dreams in different cultures and the myriad parallels formed with music. Music from virtually any time period could work, but the most striking parallels occur in the 20th century, when structures loosen, colors come into their own, and stream of consciousness prevails. Soon one begins to see a tie-in with mysticism and beliefs in a collective unconscious. When harmonies float, so do thoughts, and the enormity of an inexplicable universe is conveyed in the music by composers who believed in unseen forces, be they found in theosophy, astrology, or simply the occult. This presentation will explore music from different nations, cultures, and religious persuasions, as well as tie-ins with literature and visual art.

Psychology

Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung

Religion:

Rosicrucianism. – Erik Satie, Claude Debussy.

Theosophy – Alexander Scriabin, Dane Rudhyar, Ruth Crawford Seeger

Hinduism—George Gurdjieff, Dane Rudhyar

Transcendentalism—Charles Ives, Ruth Crawford Seeger

Astrology — George Crumb, Dane Rudhyar

See the following article by Alex Ross for an excellent discussion of the arts and the occult:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/06/26/the-occult-roots-of-modernism>

Folk Traditions:

African-American—Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds

Armenian, Persian — Alan Hovannhess

Japanese — Michio Mimaya

Chinese — Tan Dun

Aborigine—Peter Sculthorpe

Navajo — Connor Chee

Literature and visual art

Symbolist poets—Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé, Paul Verlaine

Symbolist painters—Odilon Redon, Gustave Moreau, Mikhael Vrubel, Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis

Expressionist Painters — Arnold Schoenberg, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoshka

Magical Realist Writers — Edgar Allan Poe, ETA Hoffmann

Musical Examples:

Traumerei from *Kinderszenen*, op. 15 (1838) - Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Verrufene Stelle, Vogel als prophet from *Waldscenen*, op. 82 (1850) - Robert Schumann

Sonneries de la Rose + Croix (1892) Erik Satie - (1866-1925)

Deep River from *24 Negro Melodies*, op. 59 (1905 – Samuel Coleridge Taylor (1875-1912)

Sonata, op. 1 (1909-1910) – Alban Berg (1885-1935)

Sonata no. 3 in F# Minor, op. 23 (1897-98) and *Prelude Op. 74, no. 2* (1915) - Alexander Scriabin (1871-1915)

Voiles and *Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir*, *Preludes, Book 1* (1910) - Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

"Alcotts" from *Sonata no. 2*, *"Concord Sonata"* (1911-1921) - Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Mystic Flute (1937) - Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Prelude No. 6 from *Four Preludes for Piano* (1927-28) - Ruth Crawford Seeger (1901-1953)

Dream Images from *Makrokosmos, Vol. 1* (1972) - George Crumb (1928-2022)

Floating Clouds, from *Eight Memories in Water-Color*, op. 1 (1978-79) - Tan Dun (b. 1957)

Rite of Transcendence (1981) - Dane Rudhyar (1895-1985)

Lullaby of Hikage-dori and *Joiku of Reindeer for Winter* from *6 Preludes* (1984)- Michio Mamiya (b. 1929)

Nocturnal (1989) - Peter Sculthorpe (1929-2014)

Les Yeux clos (II) (1989) - Toru Takemitsu (1930-1996)

Navajo Vocabale for Piano No. 1 from *The Navajo Piano* (2014) - Connor Chee