

Music Intensive

Week Eight Seminar Paper Prompts

This assignment begins your thinking and writing about the Classical period (1750 – 1820 C.E.). Take any one of the following prompts and consider it carefully as you complete this week's readings. Your written response is your ticket to the seminar; please bring one page, typed, with your name and date in the upper right corner. You also have the option of engaging a question of your own creation about any of the work for this week. Note that your reading assignments are *Bridge of Waves* Chapter 10, *Listen* Chapter 12/13 – including on-line quizzes, and *Fundamentals* Chapter 8. Use the *Fundamentals* workbook to develop your understanding of major and minor scales and keys; take the quizzes online and submit scores electronically to your seminar faculty. **Note that we are aware that Monday's holiday precludes a first lecture on the classical style period; we have taken that into consideration in our design of these questions.**

* The bridge is a metaphor in *Bridge of Waves*. Mathieu mentions it on p.245, but it covers the entire chapter. Think about how music serves as a bridge between humans, between you and your inner self, and even between nations. Discuss several types of musical bridges, both in the chapter and elsewhere, and how they transcend the spaces in between.

* What are the legacies of the Enlightenment? Some are musical; others are quite specific to aspects of art, politics, history, etc. How are you in some ways a product of the Enlightenment? Chapter 12 in *Listen* will offer some insights, but go online and mess around with the idea until you have some other perspectives on the Enlightenment. Try to take those perspectives in and think about legacies.

* Form is paramount within the context of the symphony. How and why does it help you, as a listener, a musician, and a student to understand form – in its various permutations – in both the Baroque and Classical style periods?

* Think about play. Explain the role of play in music. Mathieu discusses play in chapter 10 of *Bridge of Waves*; think about how he frames his discussion and add to it with your own ideas. Why do people say “I don't play” when offered an instrument, or “I don't sing” when invited to join a song?