

# Discovering God in Classical Music

## Course Description

Johannes Brahms said that great music comes from God. By this he meant that great musical ideas originate with God, and these ideas are given to composers. It is then the task of the composer to take the ideas and to put them on paper so that they can be shared with others.

This course is based on the belief that great music comes from God, and, if it is indeed from God, there is something valuable in it for us. My goal in teaching this course is to help students listen to great music with "spiritual ears" and to find what God has in it for them.

It is my conviction that we should, as St. Paul said, be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We ought to be continually in the process of changing into the likeness of Jesus Christ throughout our lives. There are many spiritual disciplines (adoration and worship, thanksgiving, confession of sin, supplication, intercession, scripture reading, scripture memorization, scripture meditation, et al) that assist us in growing in Christ. I believe that great music can also be helpful in drawing us closer to our Master. In this course several pieces of great music are to be explored for "God's fingerprints".

Music has a unique quality of being able to imprint itself on our minds in a deep way. If we recognize God's handiwork in that music, it may impact us positively for years to come.

## Course Format and Expectations

The students do not need to purchase anything. I intend to make one video lecture a week and then give a listening assignment on You Tube. Essays would mostly be written reactions to the music. I may suggest to parents that they use these essays as writing assignments, but I do not intend to grade them myself for grammar. The essays are primarily for me to see how well the material is being understood and if it is impacting the students in a positive way.