

## EIGHT GREAT SYMPHONIES

### Learning Unlimited Fall 2015 Lecture Series

Wednesdays, October 21 to December 9, 2015, 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon  
Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke  
[www.learningunlimitedetobicoke.com](http://www.learningunlimitedetobicoke.com)

#### Coordinator and Presenter

Rick Phillips was affiliated for 30 years with the CBC, and is now busy as a freelance writer and reviewer, panel moderator, musical tour guide, artistic director, concert host and lecturer. This is his third visit to Learning Unlimited.

#### Course Overview

Much more than a form of mere entertainment, the symphony is the backbone of orchestral music, but when, why and how was it born? How and where did it develop? How did it reflect the culture and values of its time, and how can it relate to our fast-paced 21<sup>st</sup> century lives today? In this course, we will examine all of these questions as we focus on eight of the greatest symphonies ever penned. Organized chronologically, the series will open your ears and enlighten your mind, resulting in a greater understanding, enjoyment and love of great classical music

#### Course Outline

**October 21** Course introduction and **Haydn (1732-1809): Symphony No. 88** – “Papa” Haydn set the model for the 18<sup>th</sup> century symphony. The symphony No. 88 is a brilliant example of logic, structure, emotion, wit and humour.

**October 28** **Mozart (1756-1791): Symphony No. 38, “Prague”** - Premiered in the city of Prague in 1787, it is concise, rhythmic, tuneful and dramatic – an immediate success, then and now.

**November 4** **Beethoven (1770-1827): Symphony No. 5** – Beethoven opened the door to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic Age. The Symphony No. 5 is one of the most popular of all symphonies – a masterpiece of rhythm, energy, drive and conception, tracing a path from darkness to light.

**November 11** **Berlioz (1803-1869): Symphonie Fantastique** – Here, Berlioz used the symphonic form as a powerful autobiographical expression. It opened up a range of new possibilities for the further development of the symphony.

**November 18** **Tchaikovsky (1840-1893): Symphony No. 4**- Tchaikovsky combined the form and structure of his Austro-German symphonic models with Russian folk music idioms and a passion to create a unique and thrilling national symphonic style.

**November 25** **Dvorak (1841-1904): Symphony No. 9 “From the New World”** – For a few years, the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak lived and worked in New York City. The vibrant New York culture, music, and lifestyle inspired him to compose a brilliant masterpiece, as much American as Bohemian.

**December 2** **Mahler (1860-1911): Symphony No. 2 “Resurrection”** – Gustav Mahler further developed the purpose and potential of the symphony by using it to comment philosophically on the human experience. This has attracted 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences searching for meaning and purpose.

**December 9** **Sibelius (1865-1957): Symphony No. 5** – Using the landscape, history and culture of his native land, the great Finnish composer created works that are rugged, austere, even rough-hewn at times, and possessed of a curious beauty loved by people of northern climes, like us Canadians.

Researcher and Chair: Pamela Guy

**Registration: \$35.00 per person, per series**

