Course Title: The Artistry of Beethoven: A 250th Anniversary Celebration
Course Code: MUS 18
Instructor: Ilias Chrissochoidis

Course Summary:
This course commemorates the 250th anniversary of the most influential composer in music history, who left one of the most indelible legacies in modern culture. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) stands like a colossus between two different periods in European cultural history: consolidating the legacy of Classical era music and ushering in the new spirit of Romanticism in the art of sound. An explosive personality, he personified the sublimity, calamities, and contradictions of artistic genius as no other of his contemporaries. After a decade-long submission to the established forms of his predecessors Haydn and Mozart, Beethoven pursued a novel path in the early 1800s that yielded a string of masterpieces from the “Eroica” and Fifth Symphonies to the massive “Missa Solemnis” and Choral Ninth Symphony, as well as a series of pathbreaking string quartets and the most influential body of piano music ever composed.

Addressing the general music lover and practitioner, this course provides an updated introduction to Beethoven’s biography, a thorough and listening-oriented examination of key works with an emphasis on music’s stylistic and psychological aspects, and the live piano demonstration of examples, performed by the instructor. Students will come away with a deeper appreciation for Beethoven’s genius and the reasons behind his enduring impact on classical music to this day.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 (3/31):
Introduction; Beethoven biography; historical background; sonata form

Week 2 (4/7):
Symphonies I: “Eroica”

Week 3 (4/14):
Symphonies II: Fifth and Sixth

Week 4 (4/21):
Symphonies III: Ninth

Week 5 (4/28):
Piano Sonatas I: “Pathétique”, “Moonlight”, “Tempest”
String quartets I

Week 6 (5/5):
Piano Sonatas II: “Waldstein”, “Appassionata”, “Hammerklavier”
String Quartets II

Week 7 (5/12):
Concertos: Piano Concertos 3, 4, 5
Vocal music

Week 8 (5/19):
Fidelio

Week 9 (5/26):
Student projects (performance or analysis)

Week 10 (6/2):
Beethoven’s legacy; test; further resources