Course Title: Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos: An Introduction to a Musical Landmark
Course Code: MUS 190
Instructor: Erick Arenas

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)
Score will be determined by student attendance and participation.

Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
Written work, as assigned by the instructor, will determine a student’s grade.

*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.

Course Materials:

Recordings of the six Brandenburg Concertos: Specific performances available on CD, video, and online will be recommended in advance of the first class meeting.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week I

J. S. Bach, the Margrave of Brandenburg, and Six Concertos avec plusiers instruments
Basics of Early Eighteenth-Century Instrumental Style
Guided Listening: Concerto No. 3 in G, BWV 1048

Week II

Bach and the Baroque Orchestra
Concerto No. 6 in B-flat, BWV 1051
Concerto No. 4 in G, BWV 1049

Week III

More on Orchestration
Matters of Form
Concerto No. 4, continued
Concerto No. 1 in F, BWV 1046

Week IV

Concerto No. 5 in D, BWV 1050
Reception and Historical Position of the Concertos over the Centuries
Concertos Under the Critical Lens: Virtuosity and Sociology

Week V

Concerto No. 2 in F, BWV 1047
Review of Performances and Performance Matters Past, Present and Historical