

Chopin's Romantic Requiem: Poetic Virtuosity & the Shadow of Tuberculosis

Thursday, December 11th * 6:30pm

Fairfield Public Library,
Memorial Room

Professor Gil Harel returns for an in-depth lecture on Frédéric Chopin, examining how, as a quintessential Romantic composer, he crafted lyrical nocturnes and vibrant mazurkas that vividly reflect Poland's cultural and musical heritage. We will also consider how his struggle with tuberculosis and premature death at age 39 imbued his compositions with profound emotional depth and expressive intensity. Like so many composers of the 19th century, Chopin composed in the shadow of Beethoven – we shall consider this phenomenon, and seek to understand how it affected his works on the micro and macro levels.



Dr. Gil Harel (PhD, Brandeis University) is a musicologist and music theorist whose interests include styles ranging from western art music to contemporary musical theater. Previously, he served on the faculty at CUNY Baruch College (where he was awarded the prestigious "Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching"). Currently, he is Full Professor of Music at CT State Naugatuck Valley, where he has been presented with the AFT "Merit Award for Exemplary Service to the College" for 6 consecutive years. In 2020, he was honored with the coveted Connecticut Board of Regents (BOR) Teaching Award. At NVCC, Dr. Harel conducts the college chorale, a cappella ensemble, teaches music history and theory, and serves as musical director of theater productions.



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