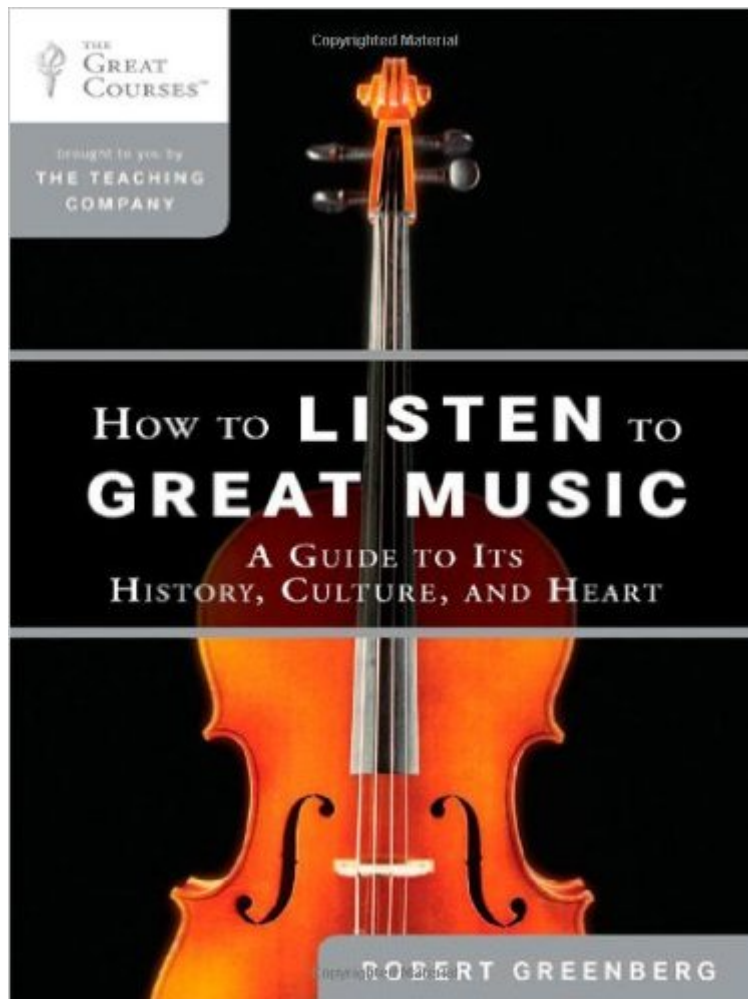


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# How To Listen To Great Music: A Guide To Its History, Culture, And Heart (Great Courses)



## Synopsis

From one of the most trusted names in continuing education-the knowledge you need to unlock "the most abstract and sublime of all the arts." Whether you're listening in a concert hall or on your iPod, concert music has the power to move you. The right knowledge can deepen the ability of this music to edify, enlighten, and stir the soul. In *How to Listen to Great Music*, Professor Robert Greenberg, a composer and music historian, presents a comprehensive, accessible guide to how music has mirrored Western history, that will transform the experience of listening for novice and long-time listeners alike. You will learn how to listen for key elements in different genres of music - from madrigals to minuets and from sonatas to symphonies-along with the enthralling history of great music from ancient Greece to the 20th century. You'll get answers to such questions as Why was Beethoven so important? How did the Enlightenment change music? And what's so great about opera anyway? *How to Listen to Great Music* will let you finally hear what you've been missing. [Watch a Video](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Before presenting my review I should warn the reader that I have no training in music. I do not read music nor do I play any instrument. I do however love to listen to music of all genres. I was looking for a good, not too shallow and not too academic, introduction to western classical music. I wanted to learn to appreciate what I was listening to beyond just the tune and rhythm. Greenberg's course fit the bill quite nicely. Starting with early music Greenberg takes one on a very rewarding journey all

the way to the modern composers. The third edition consists of 48 lectures at 45 minutes each for a total of 36 hours. Now some may consider this a tad long but for my purposes it was just great. In fact it took me a good 8 months to finish the course! Professor Greenberg presents the material with zest and enthusiasm that makes the material easily understandable. An important concept in this course is the idea of 'music as a mirror'. In other words knowing the history, culture, and social norms of the time is ABSOLUTELY essential to understanding and appreciating the works. The early lectures deal with music basics such as tone, form etc. which was great because for a non-musician like myself it lays the groundwork for later lectures. Some samples of ancient Greek music were quite beautiful. I found that listening to about two lectures a week was just right to mull the contents over and maybe check out a point or two in any music dictionary. In some cases listening to a piece to corroborate a salient in the lectures helped a great deal. I am so glad I purchased this set. I thought long and hard before coughing up the bread because the set was not cheap. But I am glad I did.

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