

## The legend of Faust and its musical heritage

**Start date** 20 January 2023**End date**

22 January 2023

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  
CB23 8AQ**Tutor** Dr Robert Letellier**Course code**

2223NRX015

**Director of ISP and LL**

Sarah Ormrod

**For further information contact**[inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk)

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### Tutor biography

Robert Ignatius Letellier is a lecturer and author and has presented some 30 courses in music, literature and cultural history at ICE since 2002. Educated in Grahamstown, Salzburg, Rome and Jerusalem, he is a member of Trinity College (Cambridge), the Meyerbeer Institute Schloss Thurnau (University of Bayreuth), the Salzburg Centre for Research in the Early English Novel (University of Salzburg) and the Maryvale Institute (Birmingham) as well as a panel tutor at ICE.

Lectures given by Robert include copious audio-visual examples, utilising CD, DVD and PowerPoint. He encourages the exchange of ideas among the participants, with as much interaction and discussion as possible.

Robert's publications number over 100 items, including books and articles on the late-17th-, 18th- and early 19th-century novel (particularly the Gothic Novel and Sir Walter Scott), the Bible, and European culture. He has specialised in the Romantic opera, especially the work of Giacomo Meyerbeer (a four-volume English edition of his diaries, critical studies, and two analyses of the operas), the opera-comique and Daniel-François-Esprit Auber, Operetta, the Romantic Ballet and Ludwig Minkus. He has also worked with the BBC, the Royal Opera House, Naxos International and Marston Records, in the researching and preparation of productions.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

**20:30 – 22:00 Faust: the history, the legend, the puppet play, Marlowe and Goethe**

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

**09:00 – 10:30 Faust: the legend in Spohr, Beethoven, Kreutzer, Schubert, Lortzing, Meyerbeer, Liszt, Wagner, the paintings of Delacroix**

10:30 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30 Schumann: the mystic elements of Goethe**

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 Tea

**16:30 – 18:00 Berlioz: the fantastic elements of Faust**

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Dinner

**20:00 – 21:30 Gounod: the human elements of Goethe's Faust 1**

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

**09:00 – 10:30 Boito: the philosophical treatment of the whole poem**

10:30 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30 Mahler, Busoni and Havergal Brian: mysticism and the return to legend. Conclusion.**

12:45 Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Examine the Legend of Faust and its musical heritage through four centuries.
2. Delineate the literary extension of the legend in plays, poetry and novel central to the historical and philosophical discourse that has been a characteristic of Romantic and modern thought
3. Explore the musical types and forms that have served as popular and enduring expressions of the various aspects of the myth.

### Content:

This course examines the enduring fascination of the story of Faust, the thinker who sells his soul to the devil to gain life and knowledge. The legend, especially as embodied in the plays of Marlowe (1604) and Goethe (1808, 1832) have made decisive contributions to civilization, and have inspired and sustained a rich and varied musical response from the Romantic Period until modern times: operas by Louis Spohr, Charles Gounod, Arrigo Boito and Ferruccio Busoni, dramatic scenes by Ludwig van Beethoven, Hector Berlioz, Robert Schumann, Franz Liszt's Faust Symphony, and the finale of the huge Eighth Symphony by Gustav Mahler. The course aims to examine elements of all these works in word and music.

### Presentation of the course:

Lectures with PowerPoint, CD and DVD presentation, class discussion.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

1. Show some knowledge of the nature of the Faust story as a major myth of modern Western civilisation
2. Have a working acquaintance the great plays of Marlowe and Goethe, and understand why these works have successfully embodied so much of the enduring power of the myth
3. Have a more detailed understanding of the rich musical responses to the Faust myth, especially in the verbal settings of Goethe's play, and the operas, cantatas, and symphonies inspired by the story.
4. Demonstrate some knowledge of the analytical procedures and skills in word and music needed to make the most of the various artistic genres used to reflect on this powerful story and its place in our modern consciousness.

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## Reading and resources list

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All reading materials marked with an asterisk (\*) are considered compulsory reading materials for the course. All other resources are suggested readings.

\*‘The Complete Plays’, Christopher Marlow, Penguin 1969

\*‘Faust’, part I and part II, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Penguin 1949, 1959

\*‘Faust Der Tragodie erster und zweiter teil’, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Deutsche Taschenbuch Verlag 1962

‘Goethe: A Collection of Critical Essays’, Victor Lange (ed.), Prentice Hall 1968

‘Myths of Modern Individualism’, Ian Watt, Cambridge UP 1996

‘Lives of Faust: The Faust Theme in Literature and Music - A Reader’, Lorna Fitzsimmons (ed.), De Gruyter Textbook 2008

‘International Faust Studies: Adaptation, Reception, Translation’, Lorna Fitzsimmons (ed.), Continuum Reception Studies 2008

‘The Complete Illustrations from Delacroix’s Faust’, Breon Mitchell, Dover Publications 1981

‘Faust’, Spohr, Novello

‘The Damnation of Faust’, Berlioz, Eulenburg

‘Szenes aus Goethes Faust’, Schumann, Peters

‘Faust’, Gounod, Schirmer

‘Mefistofele’, Boito, Ricordi

‘Symphony No 8’, Mahler, Dover

‘Dr Faust’, Busoni, Breikopf & Hartel