

Rebirth: The Future of Classical Music

[What's missing from this outline – details, objections to what I say (along with my answers), liveliness, fun, and music. I'm going to write a lot about music in the book. Note, by the way, that the copyright notice at the end allows you to circulate this outline in any way you like, subject to some pretty obvious restrictions.]

Part I -- The Crisis

Chapter I --Rebirth and Resistance

Classical music is changing. The changes can lead to its rebirth. One reason for change is the classical music crisis – the fear that classical music is receding from our culture, and that its audience might disappear.

But there's resistance to change, and some people don't even believe that the crisis is real.

Chapter II – Dire Data

Why the crisis is real.

Proof that the audience really is aging. How dramatically younger it used to be. How its aging signals a very large cultural shift.

Tangible evidence that this shift really happened. The decline in classical music ticket sales. Recent data from the National Endowment for the Arts, and how it shows that the classical music audience will almost certainly shrink.

Chapter III -- Falling Behind (The Problem of Funding)

Why money for classical music will become harder to raise.

Chapter IV -- Renegade Culture

The central problem -- our changing culture. The world has changed, but classical music (mostly) hasn't. Which explains why people -- of all ages -- have lost interest in it.

Part II --The Nature of Classical Music

Chapter V -- Defining Classical Music

What classical music really is, and why we should save it. Its great tradition.

Chapter VI -- The Myth of Classical Music Superiority

Why classical music isn't better than music of other kinds. Why it's harmful to think that it is.

Chapter VII -- World Gone Wrong: The Failure of Classical Music

Why classical music – in the ways it's presented today – no longer makes sense. Why it functions now as a refuge from contemporary life.

Part III -- Alternatives

Chapter VIII -- Pop Music and Popular Culture

Why popular culture is smart and valuable. What it can teach classical music. Why classical music has to coexist with it.

Chapter IX -- Classical Music in the Past

How classical music used to be freer, and more expressive. How this can inspire us now.

Part IV -- The Rebirth of Classical Music

Chapter X -- What Should We Do?

How classical music has already changed. Problems we still have to solve, and recommendations for further change.

Chapter XI -- Rebirth for Real

The future. What classical music might look like, after it reconnects with our current culture, and becomes a truly contemporary art.

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http://www.artsjournal.com/sandow/2009/09/unveilng_the_book.html)