

Leonard Bernstein at 100: Celebrating the Man and Musician

Many events and performances have been already scheduled to celebrate and analyze the life and contributions of Leonard Bernstein (pronounced with an “i” not “e” in stein) on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. His life spanned tumultuous times in our country and the world- events that influenced his life – from the end of WWI when he was born, to the Civil Rights era and Vietnam War when he died.

Many people in the Evergreen Forum age cohort probably feel they knew him because of his pioneering use of TV for expanding the understanding of classical music for children and adults. Some may have attended concerts where his conducting was praised by the critics even though his style broke with European traditions of conducting that had dominated orchestra performance until he arrived on the scene. And, countless others, in his age cohort, as well as in more recent generations, love the extraordinary, memorable musical theatre successes of *On the Town*, *West Side Story* and *Candide*. But relatively few music lovers of any age have come to appreciate his “classical” compositions, many of which reflect his deep interest in religious themes.

In his life time, Bernstein and his various musical endeavors and initiatives were documented and recorded making it possible for us to see and hear for ourselves what should be considered innovative, path-breaking and lasting. A review of his life and accomplishments should help us to decide what about Bernstein, other than his colorful, engaging personality, style in conducting, teaching, and communicating with the public will be for the ages and will be celebrated at his 200th anniversary.

The course is designed so that in each session, the focus will be on who Bernstein was and what he did, and, of course, enjoying and analyzing the music he created.

Leaders: Ryan Brandau is artistic director of Princeton Pro Musica and on the faculty of the Westminster Choir College, and Ingrid W. Reed is a New Jersey policy analyst who has always enjoyed musical theatre, opera and classical concerts, and is Bernstein fan.

Tuesdays: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 4 weeks: April 3 through April 24

Location: The Jewish Center in Princeton