In Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Herald of the Bahá'í Faith

Siyyid 'Alí Muhammad Shírází The Báb

A Multi-Media Concert-Lecture Featuring Concert Pianist

Mark Ochu

Exploring the Connections Between The Revelation of the Báb & The Emancipation of Women Reflected in 19th Century European Art and Music

Saturday, November 23, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Bahá'í Center of Minneapolis – 3644 Chicago Avenue South



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

In the architecture of my music I want to demonstrate to the world the architecture of a new and beautiful social commonwealth.

The secret of my harmony?

I alone know it.

Each instrument in counterpoint and as many contrapuntal parts as there are instruments. It is the enlightened self-discipline of the various parts–each voluntarily imposing on itself the limits of its individual freedom for the well–being of the community.

That is my message.

Not the autocracy of a single stubborn melody on the one hand. Nor the anarchy of unchecked noise on the other. No-a delicate balance between the two-an enlightened freedom.

The science of my art.

The art of my science.

The harmony of the stars in the heavens, the yearning for brotherhood in the heart of man.

This is the secret of my music.

Prelude in C Major, WTC Book 1, No. 1. (Ave Maria)

Siyyid 'Alí Muhammad Shírází The Báb

- Born on October 20, 1819 in Shiraz, Persia.
- Descendent of the Prophet Mohammed. (The Prophet Mohammed was a descendent of Abraham through his second wife Hagar (the Egyptian slave of Sarah).
- The title "Báb" means Gate.
- Martyred by firing squad on July 9, 1850 in Tabriz, Persia.
- He claimed to be the The 12th Imam, The Promised One of Shia Islam (The Mehdi, or Qá'im)
- The Herald of the Bahá'í Faith. (Similar to John the Baptist)
- Referred to as a "Manifestation of God" by Bahá'ís.
- Inaugurates a new and unprecedented era in the Religious history of Mankind. (end of the Prophetic cycle & beginning of the cycle of fulfillment)

The first divine hypothesis is the appearance of the Manifestations of God.

'Abdu'l–Bahá

History attests this fact, and history should be read in terms of:

Their appearance, Their teaching, Their influence, Their achievement. They are the makers of history. Without reference to Them, history shown no conscious purpose, no direction, no intrinsic meaning, no ultimate goal.

H.M. Balyuzi, <u>Bahá'u'lláh</u>, pp. 76-77.

Logos – Word

In Greek philosophy and theology, "Word" or "Logos" is the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, permeating an orderly universe – The animating force giving it form and meaning.

Logos - God Active in Creation (The Manifestations)

- Judaism: "And God said..." Genesis
- Christianity: "In the beginning was the Word..." Gospel of John
- Islam: The Prophet said, "God said to the Pen: 'Write.' It said: 'O Lord, what should I write?' He said: 'Write down the decrees of all things until the Hour begins.'" Hadith of Muhammad
- Bahá'í: I testify, moreover, that with but a movement of Thy Pen Thine injunction "Be Thou" hath been enforced... and all created things have been called into being. Bahá'u'lláh The Tablet of Visitation
- Bahá'í: "Lo, the Nightingale of paradise singeth upon the twigs of the Tree of Eternity with holy and sweet melodies..." Bahá'u'lláh – The Tablet of Ahmad

In the world of existence physical things have a connection with spiritual realities.

'Abdu'l–Bahá

Georg Wihelm Friedrich Hegel August 27, 1770 – November 14 1831

- Contemporary of The Báb.
- Hegel contrasts *Volksgeist* "national spirit" and *Weltgeist* "world-spirit" a type of communal consciousness or collection of cultural ideas, norms and practices.
- Geist der Zeiten "spirit of the times."
- Proposed a Hierarchy of the Arts.
- Developed Dialectics.
 - Thesis Religion
 - Antithesis Science
 - Synthesis Art





Zeitgeist – Spirit of the Age

- ...refers to an invisible agent or force dominating the characteristics of a given epoch in world history.
- Zeitgeist is to Philosophy; as,
- The Holy Spirit is to Religion; or,
- Logos is to Theology.
- The Manifestation is: The Logos,
- The Manifestation is: The Spirit of the Age/Zeitgeist.
- Our epoch is a birth-time, and a period of transition. The spirit of man has broken with the old order of things hitherto prevailing, and with the old ways of thinking, and is in the mind to let them all sink into the depths of the past and to set about its own transformation. Hegel Preface to the Phenomenology of Spirit (1807)

Hegel On Humanity

The nature of humanity is to impel men to agree with one another, and its very existence lies simply in the explicit realisation of a community of conscious life.

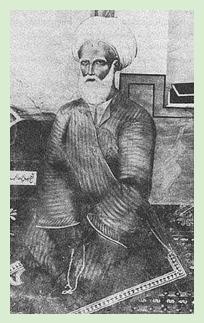
Preface to Phenomenology of Spirit (1807)

Zeitgeist Reflected in Christianity

- The Millerites Belief that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844. (The year the Báb declared his mission)
- The Seventh Day Adventists grew out of the Millerites and formally established in Michigan May 21, 1863. (The year the Bahá'u'láh declared his mission)
- The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing The Shakers. Founded in England in 1747 and in America in the 1780's.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints The Mormons established in the 1820's by Joseph Smith. (December 23, 1805 June 27, 1844)
- The German Templer Colony founded in 1868 at the foot of Mt. Carmel in Haifa, Israel. They believed that living in the Holy Land would hasten the second coming of Christ.

Zeitgeist Reflected in Islam The Shaykhi Movement

- Believed in messianic expectations of Twelver Shi'ism
- Mystical, sought "inner knowledge"
- Hermeneutics The art of understanding and of making oneself understood.
- Charged with finding the promised 12th Imam. (The Qá'im or Mehdi)





Jináb-i Bábu'l-Báb Gate of the Gate

Shaykh Ahmad Ahsá'í May 1773 – June 1836

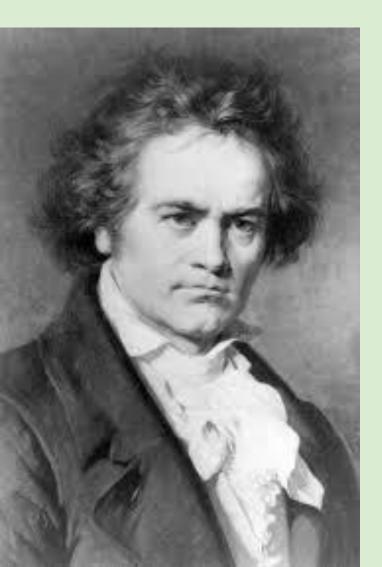
Sayyid Kázim Rashtí 1793 – 1843

Mulla Husayn 1813 - 1849

Zeitgeist Reflected in the Arts

- The anticipation and transition that occurred in Christianity and Islam was reflected in the Arts as well as all disciplines. Both visual arts and music were caught between epochs.
- In music, new instruments were developed and improvements made to old instruments allowing for dramatic contrasts.
- Rhythm became a driving unstoppable force.
- Combinations of duple and triplet patterns and time signatures reflected the Emancipation of Women.
- In the visual arts, new pigments were developed.
- Social commentary began to emerge.
- Design pushed the canons of tradition to create new forms.
- Depiction of women reflected their Emancipation.

Ludwig van Beethoven December 16, 1770 – March 26, 1827



The vibrations on the air are the breath of God speaking to man's soul. Music is the language of God. We musicians are as close to God as man can be. We hear his voice, we read his lips, we give birth to the children of God, who sing his praise. That's what musicians are.

Beethoven the Mystic



Music is the wine which inspires one to new generative processes, and I am Bacchus who presses out this glorious wine for mankind and makes them spiritually drunken.

Wine as Allegory

Reference to the use of "wine" in an allegorical sense such as being the cause of spiritual ecstasy is found, not only in the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh but also in the Bible, in the Qur'án, and in ancient Hindu traditions. For example, in the Qur'án the righteous are promised that they will be given to drink of the "choice sealed wine."

Unsealing the Choice Wine

In his tablets, Bahá'u'lláh identifies the "choice Wine" with his Revelation whose "musk-laden fragrance" has been wafted "upon all created things." He states that he has "unsealed" this "wine," thereby disclosing spiritual truths that were hitherto unknown and enabling those who quaff thereof to "discern the splendours of the light of divine unity" and to "grasp the essential purpose underlying the Scriptures of God."

Unsealing the Choice Wine (Cont.)

"In one of His meditations, Bahá'u'lláh entreats God to supply the believers with 'the choice Wine of Thy mercy, that it may cause them to be forgetful of anyone except Thee, and to arise to serve Thy Cause, and to be steadfast in their love for Thee" Kitáb-i-Aqdas

Unsealing the Choice Wine at the Family Reunion – John S. Hatcher Published in the Journal of Bahá'í Studies Vol. 6, number 3 (1994)

The Sealed Wine of Reunion

"... ponder upon the things which have been mentioned, perchance thou mayest quaff the Sealed Wine through the power of the name of Him Who is the Self-Subsisting, and obtain that which no one is capable of comprehending"

"Take heed lest anything deter thee from extolling the greatness of this Day—the Day whereon the Finger of majesty and power hath opened the seal of the Wine of Reunion, and called all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth." Bahá'u'lláh

Beethoven the Composer

From the glow of enthusiasm I let the melody escape. I pursue it. Breathless I catch up with it. It flies again, it disappears, it plunges into a chaos of diverse emotions. I catch it again, I seize it, I embrace it with delight... I multiply it by modulations, and at last I triumph in the first theme. There is the whole symphony.





Francisco Goya March 30, 1746 – April 16, 1828



Parallels with Beethoven

- Both considered as last of the "old masters" and the 1st Moderns.
- Goya had 3 distinct periods Rococco, Classical, & Romantic.
- Beethoven had 3 distinct periods from Classical, to Romanticism.
- Both lost their hearing.
- Both affected by Napoleonic wars.
- Goya influenced Expressionists and Surrealists of the 20th Century.
- Late Beethoven is characterized by formal, harmonic, structural experimentation inspiring modern composers.

Family of Charles IV



Piano Sonata No 8 in c minor Opus 13 Sonata Pathetique 1798

Movement I

Grave, Allegro di molto e con brio, Grave, Allegro di molto e con brio, Grave, Allegro di molto e con brio.

Movement II

Adagio Contabile

Atropos (the Fates)



Colossus



Witches' Sabbath



Children Blowing a Bladder



Dance on the Banks of the Manzanares River



Giant seated in a Landscape



The Straw Manikin



The Snowstorm



Autumn or the Grape Harvest



Pilgrimage to San Isidro



Majas on a Balcony



Witches' Sabbath



Saturn Devouring his Children



Ascent of a Montgolfier Balloon at Aranjuez



Old Men Eating Soup



The Parasol



Time



Two Old Men



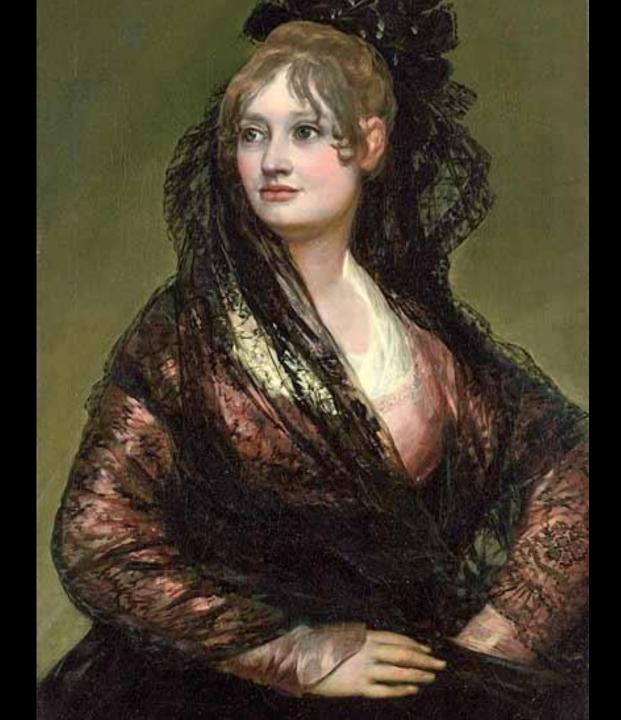
The Second of May 1808 (The Charge of the Mamelukes)



The Third of May 1808











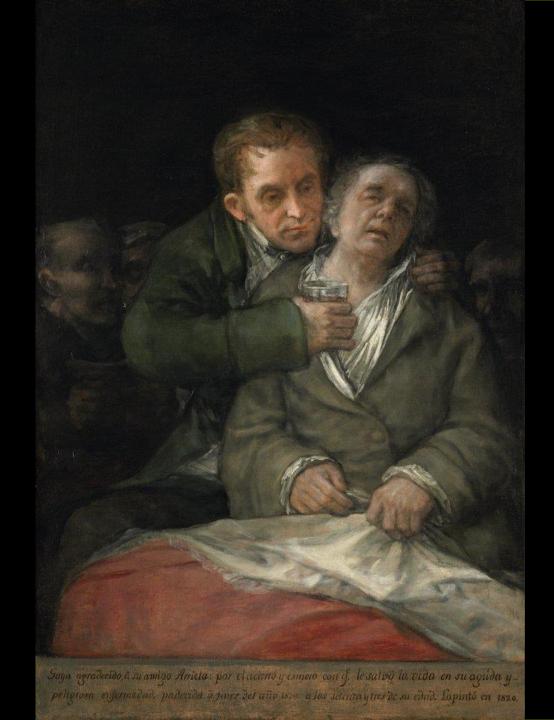


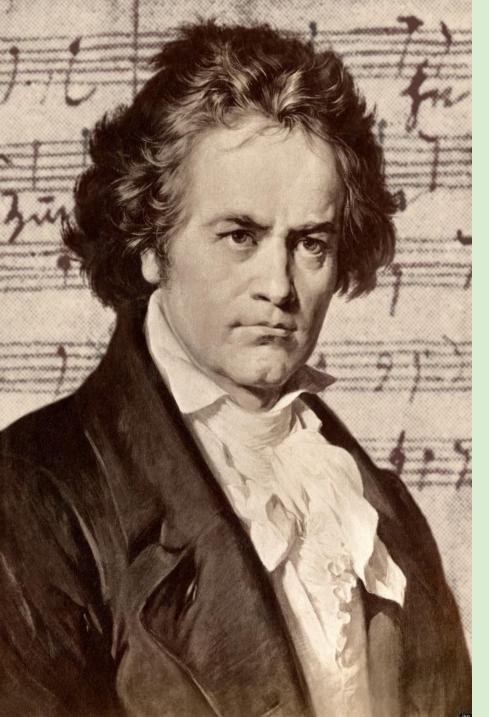












Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend.

Music is the mediator between the life of the senses and the life of the Spirit. Beethoven

Jean-Louis André Théodore Géricault September 26, 1791 – January 26, 1824

- Painted The Raft of the Medusa in 1819 without a commission.
- Considered the 1st modern painting.
- Depicts a contemporary tragic event. (Ship wreck of the Medusa)
- Bridge between Neo-Classicism and Romanticism.
- Influenced Delacroix who posed for one of the figures.
- Classical depiction of figures and underlying structure.
- Romantic theme with addition of Man vs. Nature.
- Center of political controversy viewed as indictment of corrupt establishment.
- Abolitionist it's an African who brings salvation to survivors.
- Preliminary studies for epic works, The African Slave Trade, and Opening of the Doors of the Spanish Inquisition.

The Raft of the Medusa 1818-1819





Music in Ancient Egypt



- In ancient Egypt, it was believed that Osiris used music to civilize the world.
- It hath been revealed and is now repeated that the true worth of artists must be appreciated for they advance the affairs of mankind. Bahá'u'lláh

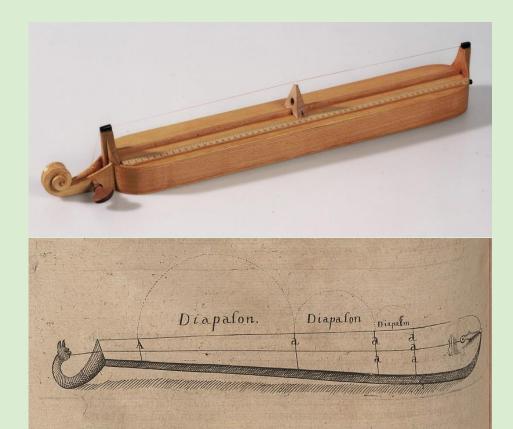
Pythagoras (569 BC – 475 BC)

- Syrian philosopher Iamblichus wrote a biography of Pythagoras in the 3rd Century AD.
- Pythagoras spent 22 years in Africa.
- Member of Egyptian Priesthood.
- Egypt was part of the Persian Empire at this time but was allowed to retain religion and customs, and centers of learning.
- It's questionable if Pythagoras discovered the "Pythagorean Theorem" since Egyptians had to have the knowledge to build the Pyramids 2500 years earlier.

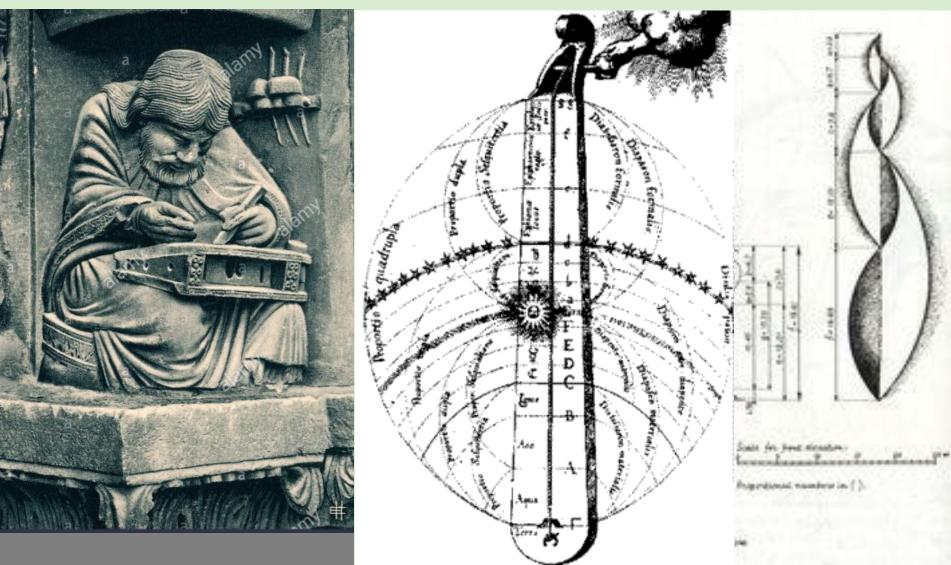
The highest goal of music is to connect one's soul to their Divine Nature, not entertainment. Pythagoras (569–475 B.C.)

The Pythagorean Monochord

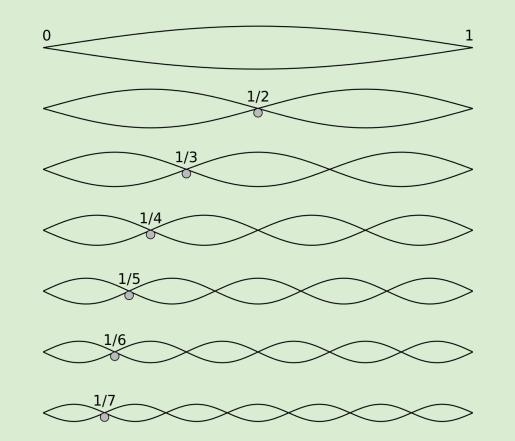
- The basic building blocks were established through finding the mathematical relationships of intervals
- Modes reflecting different emotional states were developed.



There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres. Pythagoras

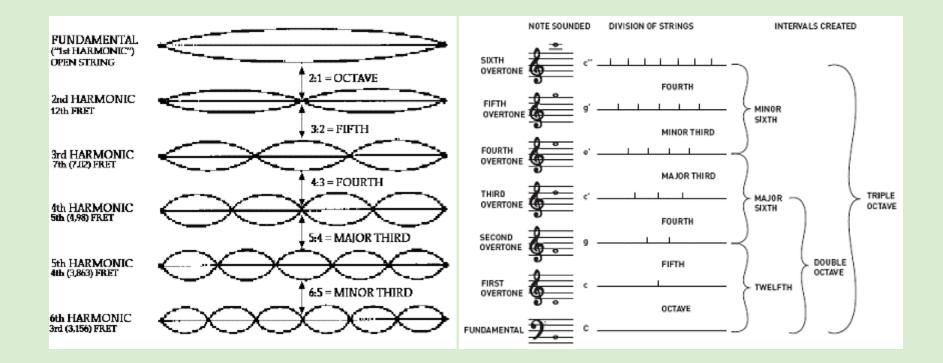


Symmetry in Vibration/Accoustics



The Overtone Series

How the Notes of the Scale came to be



The Notes of the Scale

- Do Dominus (God)
- Re Regina Coeli (Queen of the Heavens)
- Mi Micro cosmos (World of Man)
- Fa Fata (Fate)
- Sol Solis (Sun or Son)
- La Lactea Via (Milky Way)
- Si Siderae (Star Systems)
- Do Dominus (God)

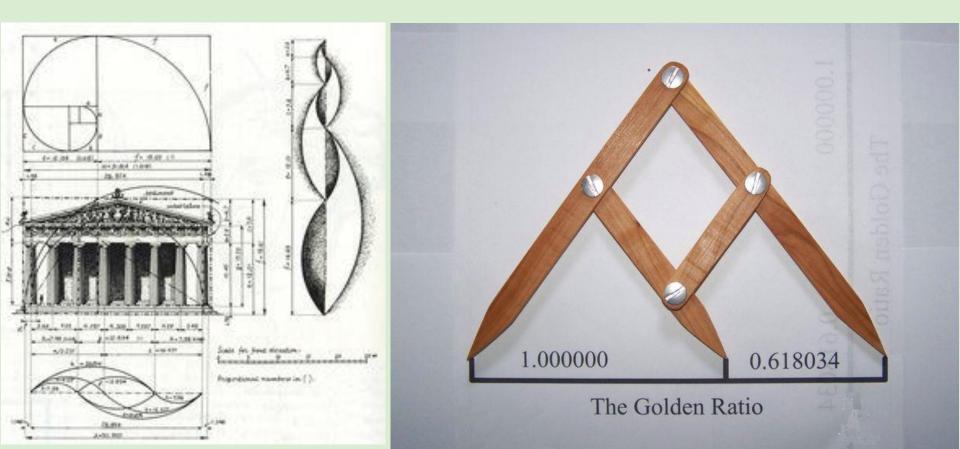
Leonard Bernstein & The Overtone Series

- Norton Series Lectures at Harvard in the 1970's.
- Demonstrates the Science and Mathematics.
- Proposes that the Overtone Series is a model for the development of music in the West.
- The progressive notes of the series corresponds with the progressive development of music from Medieval Plainchant to Jazz.

We, verily, have made music as a ladder for your souls, a means whereby they may be lifted up unto the realm on high; make it not, therefore, as wings to self and passion. Truly, We are loath to see you numbered with the foolish. Bahá'u'lláh – the Kitáb-i-Aqdas

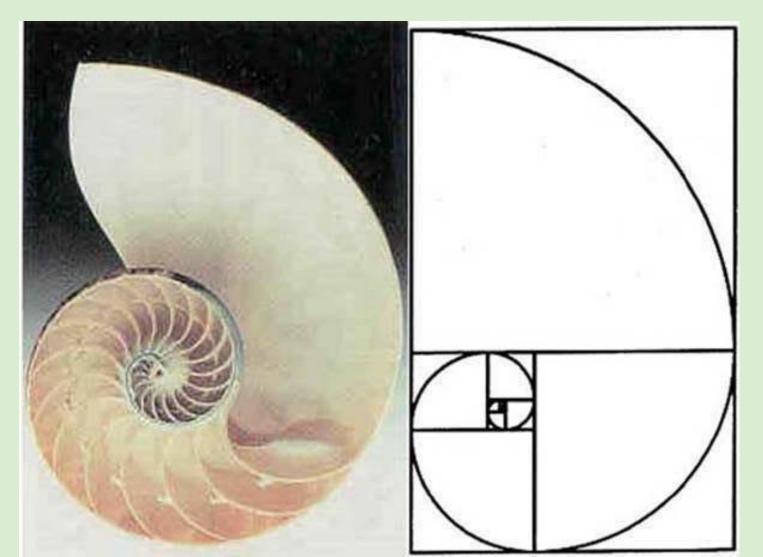
Vibration & Sacred Geometry

Golden Ratio/Rectangle



Sacred Geometry

Sea Shells



Sacred Geometry

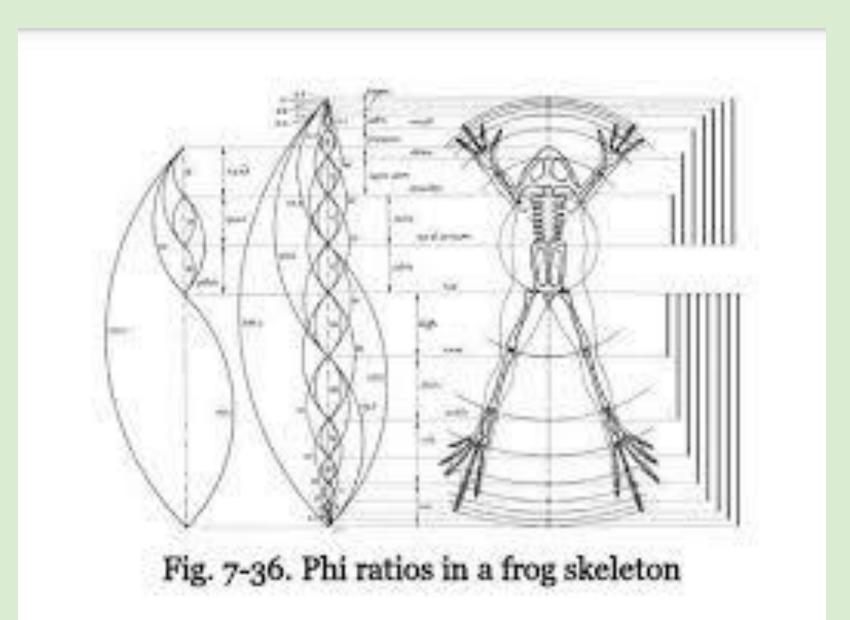




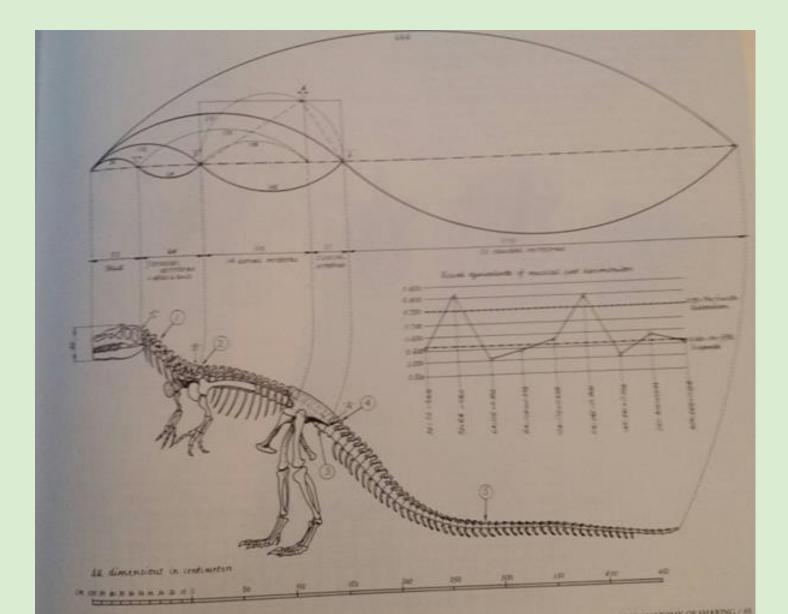
Sunflower

Spiral Aloe

Sacred Geometry



T-Rex



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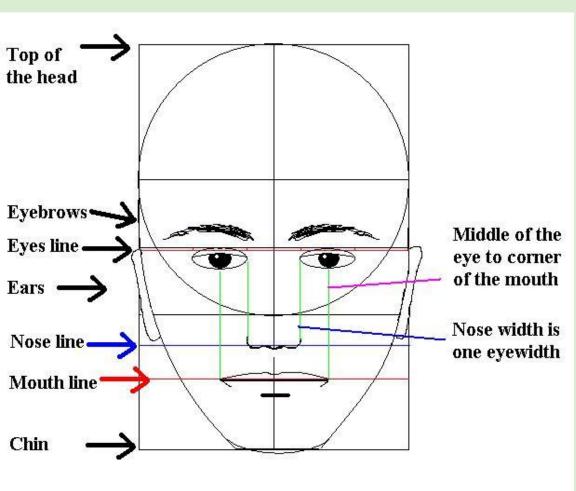
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Vitruvian Man Leonardo da Vinci

- Vitruvius was a 1st Century BC Roman Architect whose writings were published in the 15th Century.
- The circle represents the Divine / Infinite.
- The square represents the material mundane.
- Leonardo combines, mathematics, religion, philosophy, architecture, and artistic skill.
- The navel is the center of circle.
- Head to toe is equals arm span to create the square.
- 4 fingers = palm 4 palms = foot
- Height is = 6 feet or 24 palms

The Human Head/Face



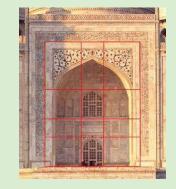
- Distance from top of head to eyes is = to distance from chin to eyes.
- Ear is = to the distance between the pupil and bottom of nose.
- Distance from eyes to nose is = to distance from chin to nose.
- Nose width is = to inside of the eye lid.
- Mouth is = to the distance between pupils

Sacred Geometry - Cross Cultures

• Egyptian



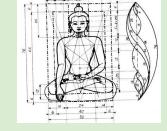
• Middle Eastern



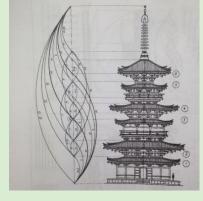
• Greek



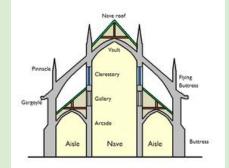
• East Indian



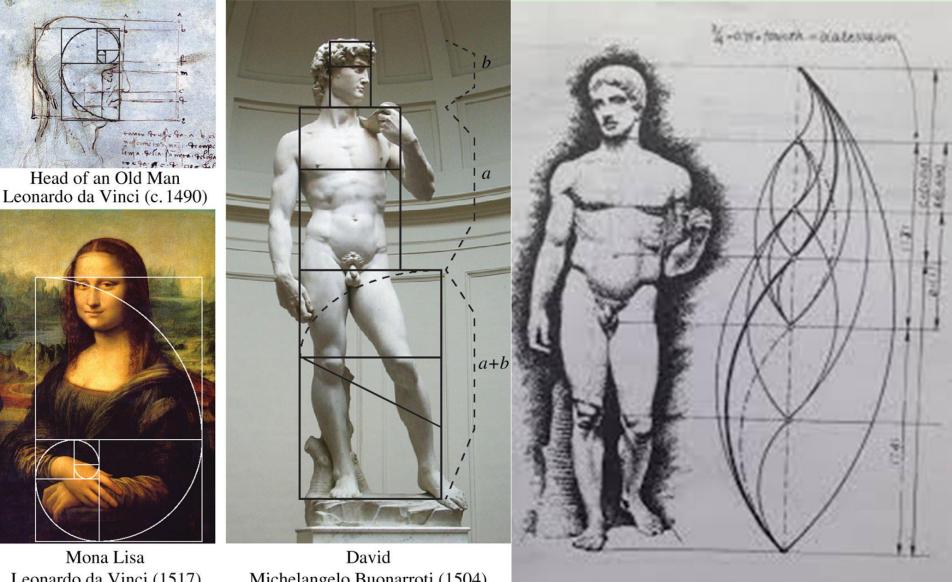
• Asian



• European



Sacred Geometry in Sculpture & Painting

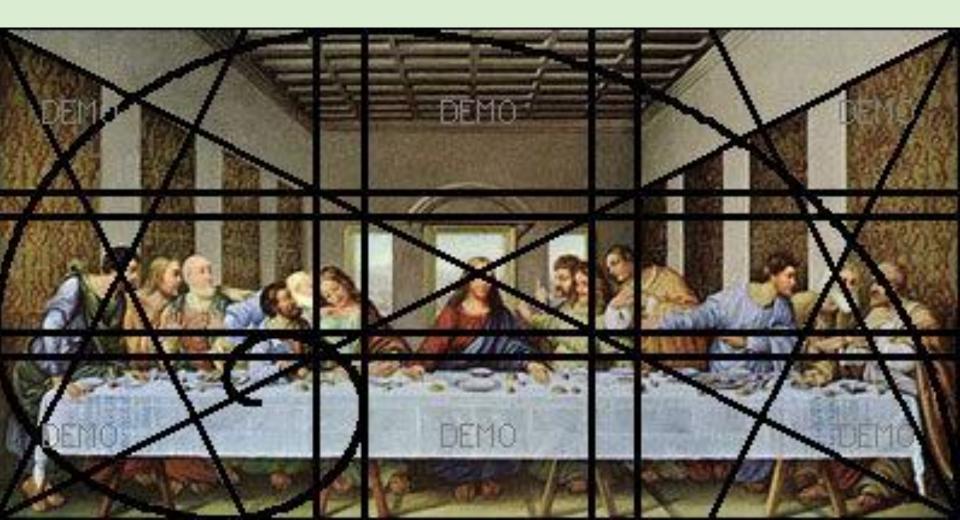


Leonardo da Vinci (1517)

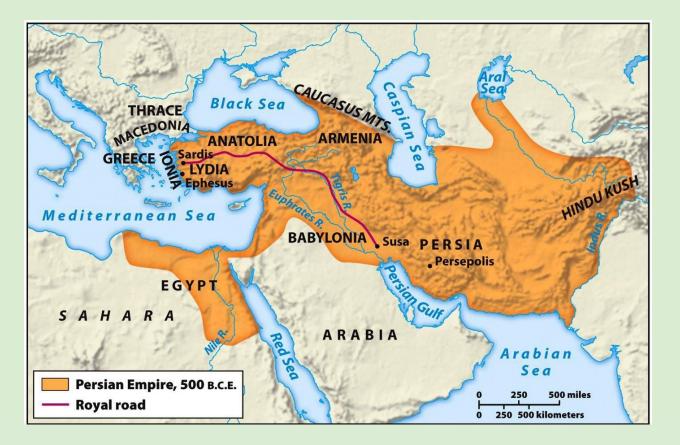
Michelangelo Buonarroti (1504)

Sacred Geometry

The Last Supper – Leonardo da Vinci

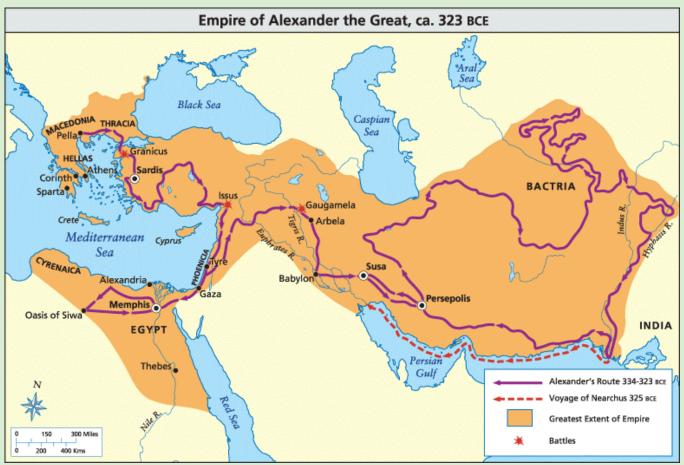


Persian Empire 550 BC – 330 BC



- Included 49.4 million people 44% of world's population.
- Xerxes torched Athens in 480 BC.

Greek Empire 330 BC - 146 BC

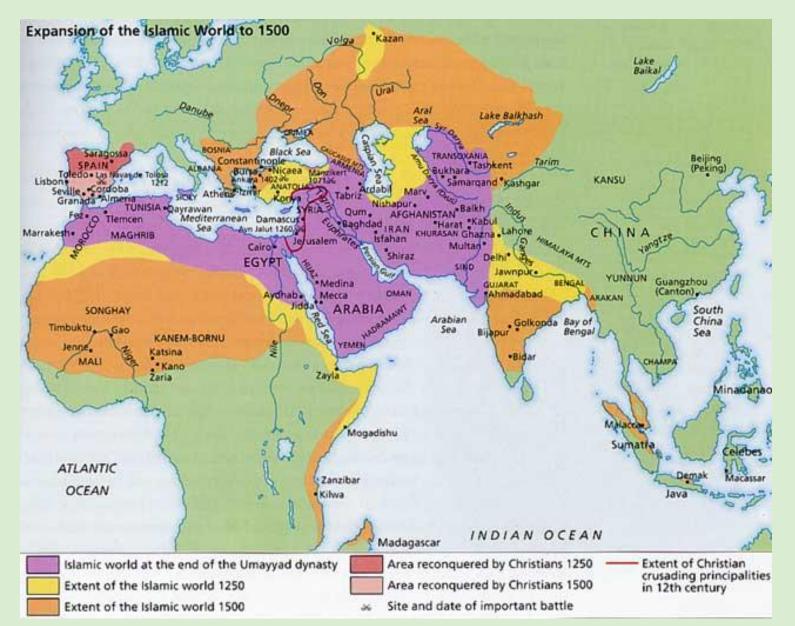


- Captured and torched Persepolis ca. 331 BC.
- Rebuilt the Acropolis in Athens.
- Became Roman Province in 146 BC

The Roman Empire – 117 AD – 476



Islamic Empire 622 - 1500

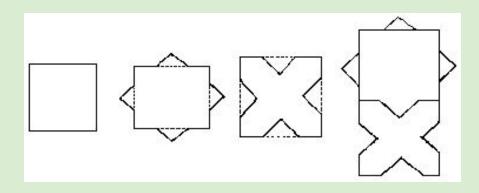


Islamic Empire Background

- 800 AD 1100 AD The Golden Age of Islam.
- 859 AD First University founded in Fez, Morocco (300 years prior to the first University in Europe).
- Islamic scholars educated Popes and Royalty.
- Influenced European Science, Engineering, Architecture (helped build and design Gothic Cathedrals).
- Ushered in the Renaissance.
- European Christian Dark Ages 476 AD 1300 AD
- The Crusades 1095 AD 1492 AD.
- The Spanish Inquisition 1478 1834 (date of last execution) (killed 300,000 some scholars estimate millions).

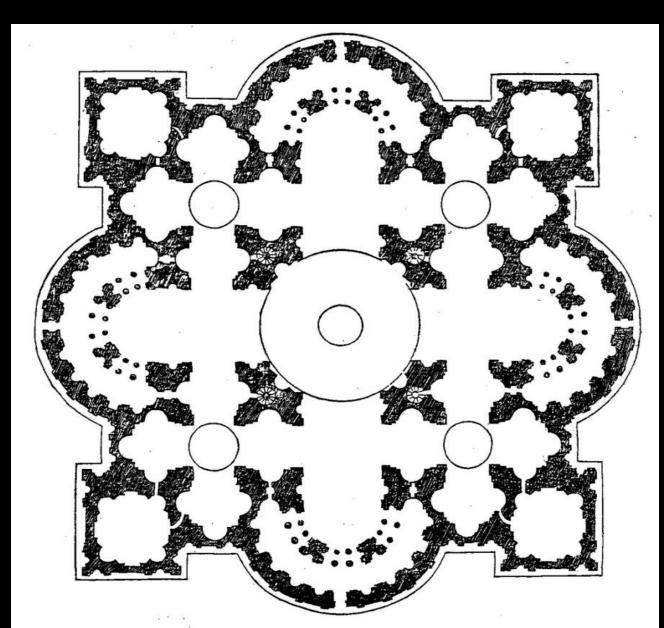
Basis of Islamic Art & Zikrullah

Beginning with a square as the symbol of "matter," it expands from the center into the *out breath* of an octagon star. The square then contracts into its center in an *in breath* .



In Hebrew as in Arabic, "breath" and "soul" are intertwined. Compare *nafs* (Arabic) to *nefesh* (Hebrew) ; *ruh* (Arabic) to *rua* **h** (Hebrew); *nasama* (Arabic) to *neshama* (Hebrew) . All are expressions both of "breath" (with the inference of wind, breeze...) and "soul."

Floor Plan of St. Peter's, Rome



Stained Glass Window







Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

In the architecture of my music I want to demonstrate to the world the architecture of a new and beautiful social commonwealth.

The secret of my harmony?

I alone know it.

Each instrument in counterpoint and as many contrapuntal parts as there are instruments. It is the enlightened self-discipline of the various parts–each voluntarily imposing on itself the limits of its individual freedom for the well– being of the community.

That is my message.

Not the autocracy of a single stubborn melody on the one hand. Nor the anarchy of unchecked noise on the other. No-a delicate balance between the two-an enlightened freedom.

The science of my art.

The art of my science.

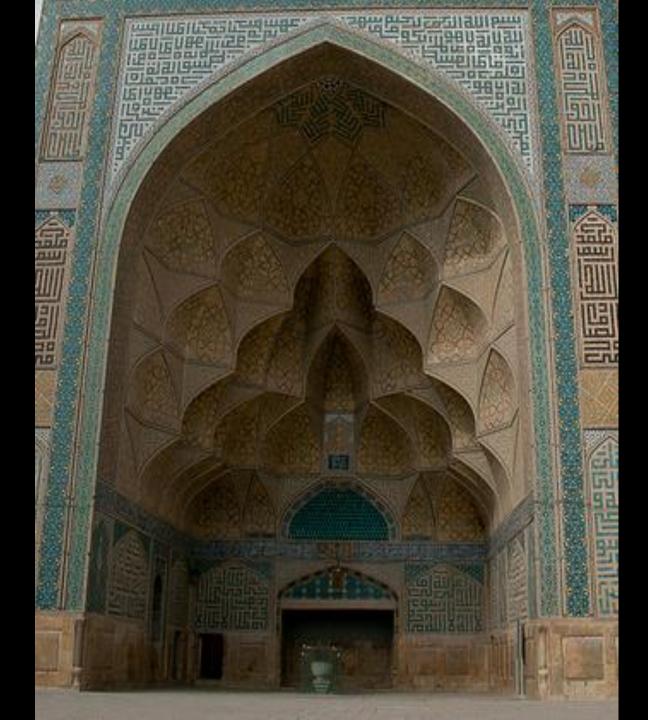
The harmony of the stars in the heavens, the yearning for brotherhood in the heart of man.

This is the secret of my music.

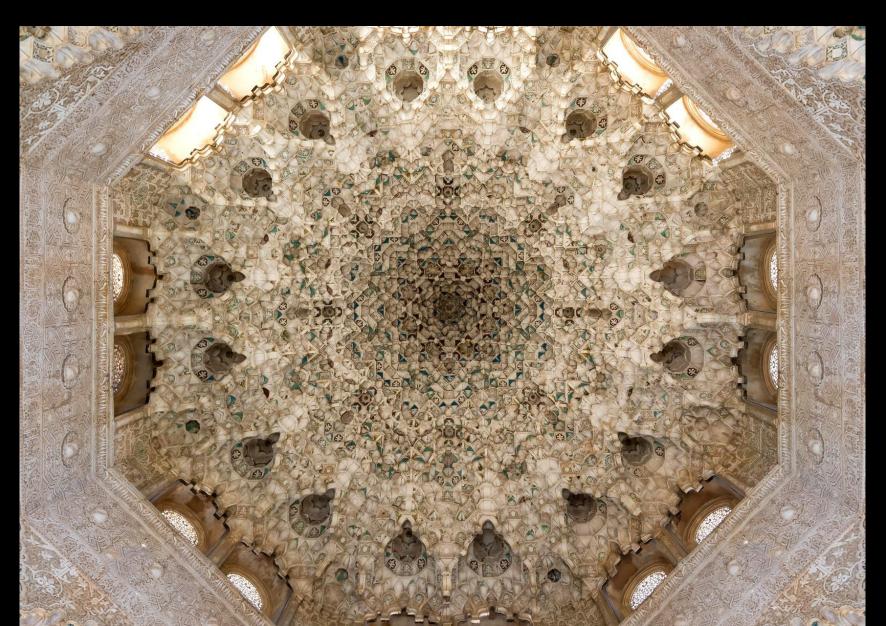
Italian Concerto, Movement I, Allegro

Kaisersaal-Germany

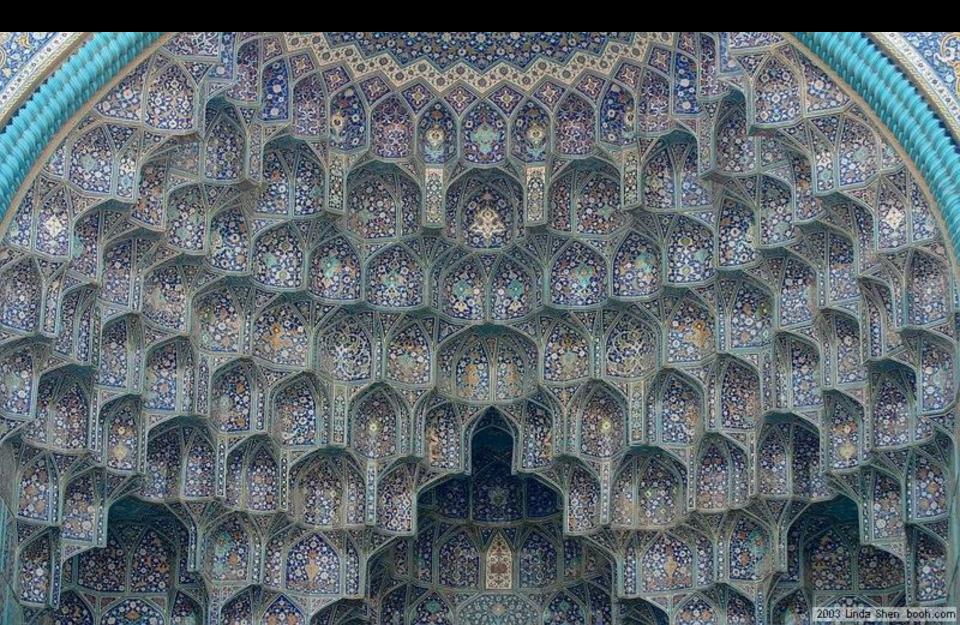




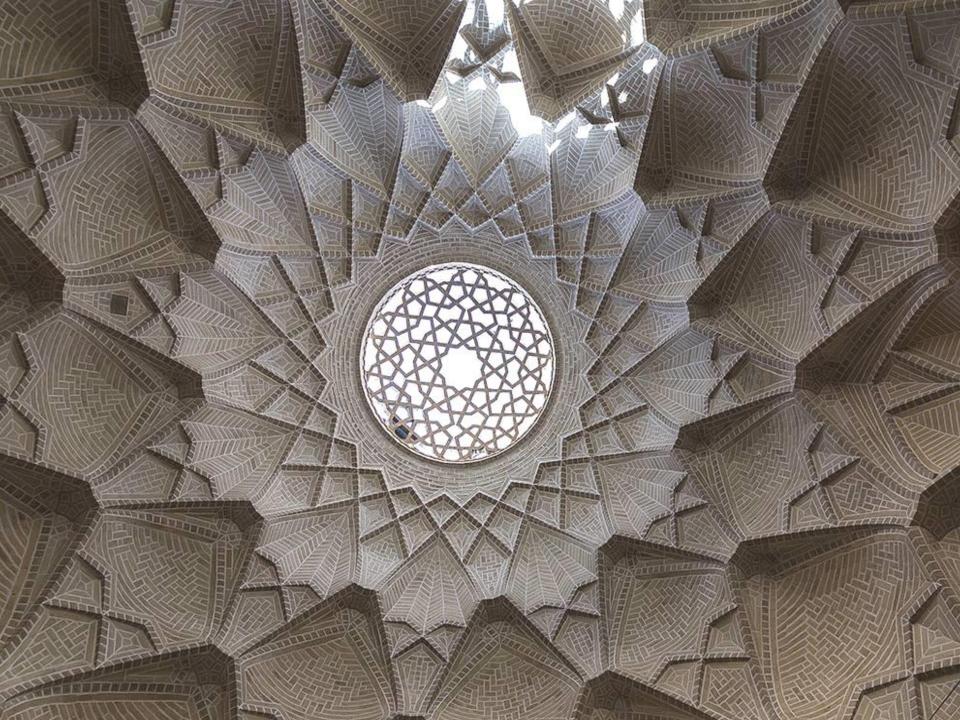
Mosque Ceiling – The Alhambra



Tile Patterns – Crystalline Structure



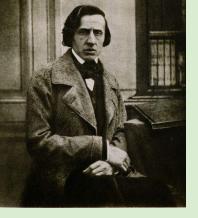






19th Century Fascination with Islam "Orientalism"

- Napolean's invasion of Egypt 1798.
- European colonialism.
- 9 translations of the *Divan* of Hafez between 1800 1880.
- Goethe writes and publishes the West/East Divan 1814-1819.
- Excerpts put to music by Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn.
- Delacroix paints scenes from Goethe.
- Edward Fitzgerald translates Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, 1859.
- John Meadows Rodwell translates Koran 1861.
- Artists traveled to North Africa.



Frédéric François Chopin (Fryderyk Franciszek) (1810 -1849)

- Represented both Classicism & Romanticism.
- Birth March 1, 1810 Zelazowa Wola, Poland.
- Begins piano lessons 1819 the year of the birth of the Báb.
- Death October 17, 1849 Paris, France.
- Funeral October 30, 1849, La Madeleine, Paris.
- Attended by over 3000, by invitation only (Franz Liszt, Victor Hugo)
- The Mozart Requiem was performed.
- Special dispensation to allow women to sing from behind a "veil."
- Church draped in black velvet with F.C. embroidered in silver.
- Buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris.
- Chopin's heart was removed and buried in Warsaw Cathedral.
- The painter Eugene Delacroix was a pall bearer at his funeral.

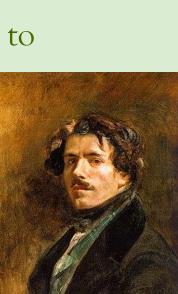
La Madeleine (Church of Mary Magdalene)

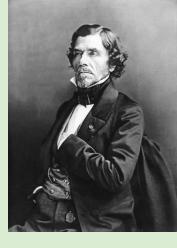
- Commissioned by Napoleon
- Design influenced by Roman temple in Nimes, France
- Dedicated in 1842
- Note similarity to the Bahá'í International Archives Building



Ferdinand Victor Eugène Delacroix (April 26, 1798 – August 13, 1863)

- Close friend of Chopin, would vacation together.
- Was a leader of French Romanticism, typified by high drama and the exotic.
- Would paint women to anthropomorphize abstract principles such as Liberty.
- In 1832, as part of a diplomatic mission, he traveled to Spain, Morocco, and Algeria.
- Was fascinated with Islam.
- Was guest of Moorish family in Algeria.
- Illustrated works of Goethe.
- Buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.





Women of Algiers in Their Apartment



Etude Opus 10, No. 5, G^b Major (1830)

- Referred to as the "Chinese Etude."
- The right hand plays an *"oriental"* harmony using only black keys save for one.
- The left hand plays an *"occidental"* harmony using both black and white keys.
- Balances masculine & feminine rhythms.
- Balances Eastern & Western harmonies.
- Structure reflecting Classicism. (Masculine attributes)
- Harmony reflecting Romanticism. (Feminine attributes)

Moroccan Women



Mounay ben Sultan 1832



The Mediterranean



George Sand by Delacroix





Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin (George Sand) July 1, 1804 – June 8, 1876

- Her father was the grandson of an illegitimate son of the King of Poland.
- She wrote novels and used a man's name.
- Was Chopin's companion (1837 1847).
- One of the first feminists.
- Smoked cigars.
- Dressed in men's clothes.



Fatima Baraghani – Táhirih

- Birth, 1814 or 1817.
- Martyrdom, August 16-27, 1852.
- Also known as, Qurrat al-'Ayn (Solace/Consolation of the Eyes).
- Well Educated in theology, jurisprudence, Persian literature, poetry.
- Poet.
- Became the first woman follower of the Báb in 1844 and the only female *Letter of the Living*.
- Attended the Conference of Badasht and removed her veil in 1848.
- You can kill me as soon as you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women.

Zaynab of Zanjan, Iran



- Follower of the Báb.
- Name means "father's precious jewel" or "fragrant flower."
- Cut her hair, dressed as a man.
- Took the name, Rustam- Ali, meaning Strong Champion.
- Joined in the defense of the Babi community in Zanjan, Persia.
- Reported to have commanded a platoon of 19 men, or fighting independently where needed.
- Died in the siege of 1850.

Ballade No 1, Opus 23 g minor (1836)

- Chopin creates a new musical form the Ballade.
- Embodies both Classicism and Romanticism.
- Written with a meter of 6/4 it allows for a variety of internal rhythmic patterns to reflect balance and tension between male/female physical/spiritual.
- Inspired by poetry of Adam Mickiewicz.
- Islam (Moors) and the Inquisition (Spaniards) are used as a metaphor for the Russian invasion of Poland.
- 2 contrasting universal themes one Fate the other heroic, transcendental.

Conrad Wallenrod

In this episode Wallenrod, coming out from a banquet, elated with drink, speaks warmly of an exploit in which the Moors took vengeance on their oppressors, the Spaniards, by infecting them in the course of hypocritical effusions, with the plague, leprosy and the most ghastly diseases, which they themselves had voluntarily contracted beforehand. To the stupefaction and horror of his fellow guests, Wallenrod gives it to be understood that he, the Pole, could also, if he would, breathe death upon his adversaries in a similar fatal embrace.

The Death of Sardanapalis – Delacroix



The Barque of Dante 1822





Drawing Study



Death of Ophelia 1843



Liberty Leading the People – Delacroix



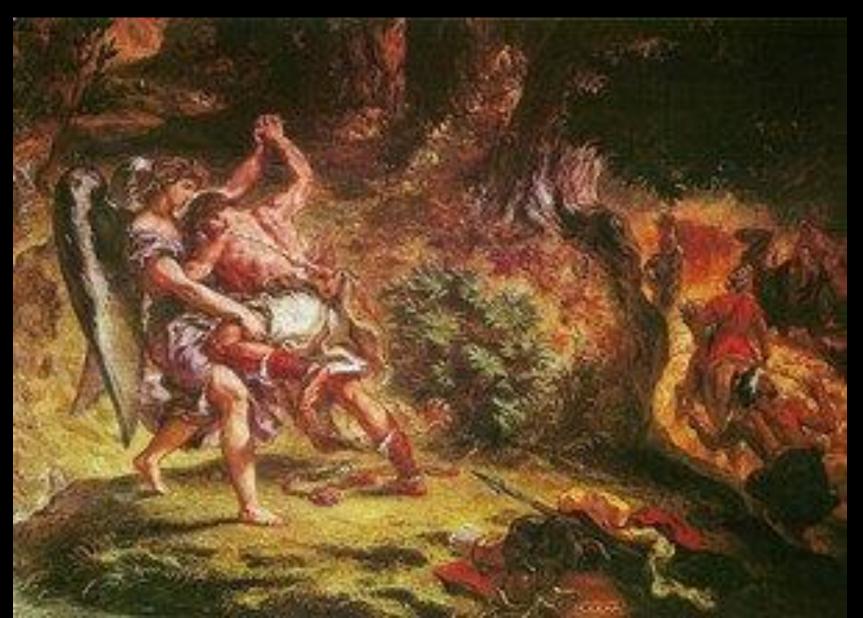
The Lion Hunt 1861



An Arab Horseman at the Gallop



Jacob's Fight with the Angel



Smoking Turk



Entry of Crusaders into Constantinople 1840



Arab Horseman Attacked by a Lion 1849



Portrait of Chopin



Delacroix kept a little drawing of Chopin as Dante in his bedroom, and until his death remembered,

The incomparable genius for whom heaven was jealous of the earth, and of whom I think so often, no longer being able to see him in this world, nor to hear his divine harmonies."

While visiting Chopin at the home of George Sand in Nohant, France in 1842 Delacroix wrote:

From time to time the window opening onto the garden admits gusts of music from Chopin, who is working in his room; it mingles with the songs of the nightingales and the scent of roses...

From the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í Writings on Music.
Strike up such a melody and tune as to cause the nightingales of divine mysteries to be filled with joy and ecstasy.

In the world of existence physical things have a connection with spiritual realities.

'Abdu'l–Bahá

In this day the sun of craftsmanship shineth above the horizon of the Occident and the river of arts is flowing out of the sea of that region. One must speak with fairness and appreciate such bounty.

> Bahá'u'lláh the 5th Taráz Tablets Revealed After the Kitab-i-Aqdas pp. 38-39.

It hath been revealed and is now repeated that the true worth of artists and craftsman should be appreciated, for they advance the affairs of mankind.

Baha'u'llah, from a Tablet – translated from the Persian Extracts From the Writings Concerning Arts and Crafts Also published in Compilation of Compilations Vol. I, pp 1-8.

The End