

Music for a Midsummer Night

Syllabus

Henry Purcell “The Fairy Queen” (1692)

An adaptation of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”. This is a “masque”, combining song, dance, and spoken dialogue. Performance is from the 2009 Glyndebourne Festival.

Felix Mendelssohn / George Balanchine “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (Music 1842, Ballet 1962)

Balanchine’s choreography for the New York City Ballet, to Mendelssohn’s incidental music to Shakespeare’s play.

Benjamin Britten “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (1960)

Performance: Opera National de Lyon (2005)

Stephen Sondheim “A Little Night Music” (1973)

Based on Ingmar Bergman’s film “Smiles of a Summer Night” (1955). Performance: New York City Opera (1990)