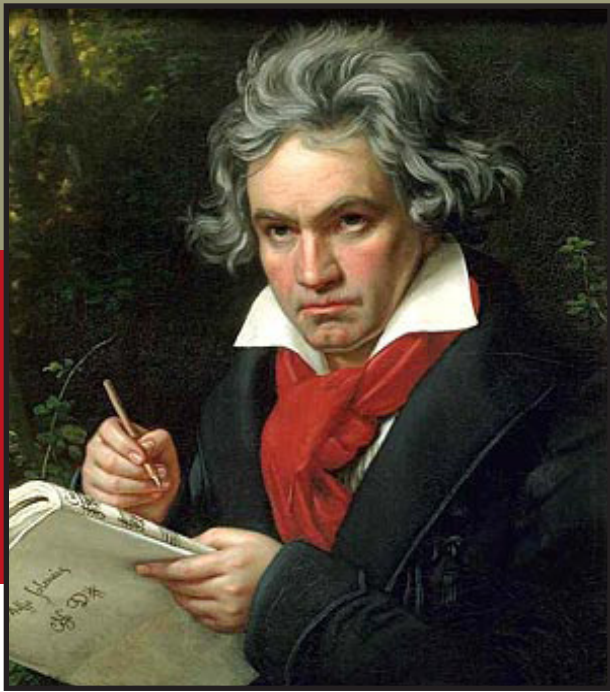


Scholars & Artists in Residence Lecture Series



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
CULTURE & SOCIETY

Eftychia Papanikolaou

October 25, 2010

201A BTSU (Skybank Room)

1:30 pm

Image: Joseph Karl Stieler (1781-1858), Beethoven with the Manuscript of the *Missa solemnis*, 1820; oil; Beethoven-Haus Bonn, B 2389

“Interrogating the Sacred: Beethoven’s Missa solemnis”

What was Beethoven’s *Credo*? Does the *Missa solemnis* show Beethoven believing or questioning?

Professor Papanikolaou’s work focuses on the genre of the Romantic symphonic Mass as represented in the output of major composers of the Austro-German tradition. She investigates the changing face of the Mass in the nineteenth century and examines the forces behind the eventual breakdown of the boundaries between sacred and secular, the church and concert hall. Her talk focuses on Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Missa solemnis* (1819-23), a large-scale liturgical Mass for chorus, soloists, and full orchestra, that became emblematic of the new symphonic style. Empowered by the aura of romanticism, Beethoven imbued his Mass with a new type of individuality, thus foreshadowing the significance, role, and status that religious music would acquire in the rest of the nineteenth century. As Papanikolaou asserts, this new type of individuality helped pave the way for romantic composers who saw in the genre of the Mass a perfect vehicle for expressing their desire for the monumental, the lofty and the sublime.

About the presenter

Eftychia Papanikolaou is Assistant Professor of Musicology and Coordinator of Musicology studies at BGSU’s College of Musical Arts. Her lectures and publications (from Haydn and Brahms to Mahler’s *fin-de-siècle* Vienna), focus on the interconnections of music, religion, and politics in the long nineteenth century, with emphasis on the sacred as a musical topos. Other research interests include music and film, and dance studies. Her essays discussing the music in *The Last Temptation of Christ* and the TV series *Battlestar Galactica* have appeared in interdisciplinary book collections. Upcoming publications include essays on Robert Schumann’s *Faust Scenes*, and Ken Russell’s film *Mahler*. She is currently writing a monograph on the genre of the Romantic Symphonic Mass.