Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

WINTER 2025

THE WORLD OF MUSICAL SATIRE

Satire is one of the oldest forms of humor. Adding music seems to make it even more powerful. In early Germanic and Celtic societies, people who were mocked in songs would break out in boils and even commit suicide. In this course, we will explore the art of musical satire in a variety of genres, cultures, and eras, especially America since 1950. This multimedia course covers Yankee Doodle, Gilbert and Sullivan, the Gershwin's, the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, Saturday Night Live, South Park, and Key and Peele. We will also cover a bountiful bevy of B's: Leonard Bernstein, the Beatles, Bo Burnham, and Bugs Bunny. Because satire is often dependent on social and historical events, this course is as much cultural history as music appreciation. And while words are preeminent in musical satire, we will also discuss the music and its interactions with lyrics. But please—no students who are prone to boils.



Click here to view promo video.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: David Misch



David Misch is a former stand-up comedian, screenwriter (Mork and Mindy, Saturday Night Live, and The Muppets Take Manhattan), author (Funny: The Book, and A Beginner's Guide To Corruption), teacher (his own courses on comedy at USC and musical satire at UCLA) and lecturer at Yale, Columbia, the Smithsonian, 92Y (NYC), Oxford University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Sydney, VIEW Cinema (Italy), and Raindance Film Festival (London), Austin Film Festival, American Film Institute, Writers Guild of America, Sony, DreamWorks, Lucasfilm, Disney, Second City, Actors Studio.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 29 THROUGH MARCH 5

3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 26
- Wednesday, February 12
 Wednesday, March 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.