

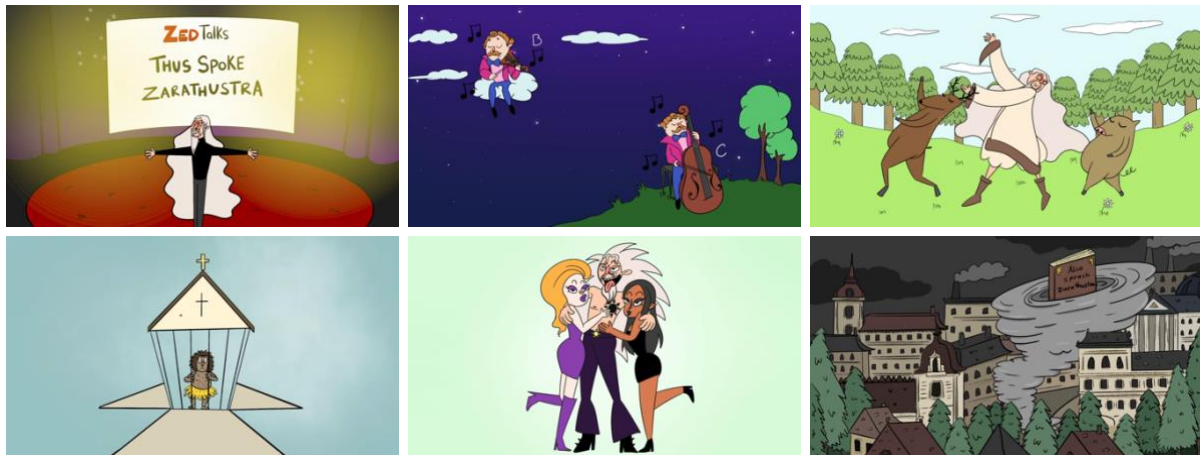
Introductory videos by Classics Explained reach 230,000 young viewers as the YouTube channel presents new episode on *Also Sprach Zarathustra*



**[Watch Episode 13: Also Sprach Zarathustra by Richard Strauss](#)**

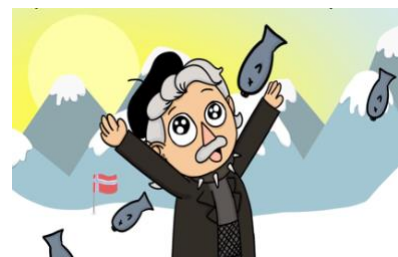
Watch Classics Explained on YouTube:  
**[youtube.com/c/ClassicsExplained](https://youtube.com/c/ClassicsExplained)**

The hit YouTube channel **Classics Explained** continues its introductions to classical music with **Strauss's famed *Also Sprach Zarathustra***, from Nietzsche to Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



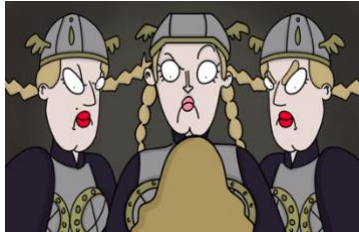
Reinventing classical music for a digital generation, Classics Explained (ClassEx) is releasing **a series of new videos** made during lockdown, having reached **230,000 views** on its YouTube channel. With an audience of almost entirely Gen Z viewers, the channel is consistently reaching an audience that the classical music industry has struggled to access.

The hit animated series presents **humorous and informative whistle-stop tours** of the most famous pieces of classical music, following in the footsteps of Disney's *Fantasia*. Each ten-minute animated episode is a witty, jargon-free introduction to the stories and creative processes behind the masterpieces. The videos provide accessible, tongue-in-cheek content that is at once educational and entertaining, like *Horrible Histories* or the *Crash Course* series on YouTube.



ClassEx is winning over a large audience, with 230,000 views in total and **5,600 subscribers** joining the channel through word-of-mouth. **90% of viewers are under the age of 34**, an audience that classical music has struggled to access.

**Classics Explained** was created in 2017 by young creators **Ben Levy** (writer and presenter) and **Valeria Strachevskaya** (director and producer), who are both former curators at the V&A working on Theatre & Performance exhibitions, with a passion for making classical music more accessible. Many of their repertoire selections are inspired by the Classic FM Hall of Fame. All episodes can be watched free on the [Classics Explained YouTube channel](#).



**Ben Levy** said:

*"We set up Classics Explained to make classical music more accessible for those who think there's a stigma attached to it – that the music's old-fashioned and unrelated to their cultural worldview. The response has been truly amazing. We've had an outpouring of both public and private messages from fans around the world, many of whom have never even listened to classical music before."*

ClassEx launched with an account of [Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade](#); episodes created since range from [The Magic Flute](#) and [The Planets](#) to [Die Walküre](#) and [Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune](#).

Over the lockdown period, ClassEx has created **new episodes** to double their content online. Videos coming soon include *Symphonie Fantastique*, the *Enigma Variations* and *Rhapsody in Blue*. [The Story of Chamber Music](#) was commissioned by the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust.



### Episodes Available Now

*The Story of Chamber Music*  
**Episode 12:** [youtu.be/4CyUReNcy9M](https://youtu.be/4CyUReNcy9M)

**Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet**  
**Episode 11:** [youtu.be/wLcrEph52k4](https://youtu.be/wLcrEph52k4)



**Stravinsky** *The Rite of Spring*  
**Episode 10:** [youtu.be/6UKrmPoJv-k](https://youtu.be/6UKrmPoJv-k)



**Debussy** *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune*  
**Episode 9:** [youtu.be/\\_d\\_nfbrIY4M](https://youtu.be/_d_nfbrIY4M)



**Tchaikovsky** 1812 Overture  
**Episode 8:** [youtu.be/UGUWwbEvCwg](https://youtu.be/UGUWwbEvCwg)



**Mozart** *The Magic Flute*  
**Episode 7:** [youtu.be/0G-4p4rVlo](https://youtu.be/0G-4p4rVlo)



**Holst** *The Planets*  
**Episode 6:** [youtu.be/iqCx07wv1Pk](https://youtu.be/iqCx07wv1Pk)



**Dvořák** 'New World' Symphony  
**Episode 5:** [youtu.be/w668Y050n5M](https://youtu.be/w668Y050n5M)



**Wagner** *Die Walküre*  
**Episode 4:** [youtu.be/H40ApNnu5EA](https://youtu.be/H40ApNnu5EA)



**Grieg** *Peer Gynt*  
**Episode 3:** [youtu.be/fBgPqhBUE2o](https://youtu.be/fBgPqhBUE2o)



**Mussorgsky** *Pictures at an Exhibition*  
**Episode 2: [youtu.be/MXnfWxkm2Ls](https://youtu.be/MXnfWxkm2Ls)**



**Rimsky-Korsakov** *Scheherazade*  
**Episode 1: [youtu.be/m3Q8h7dv3jI](https://youtu.be/m3Q8h7dv3jI)**



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