



**Description:** Poetry (or what we today term 'literature') and music used to be called 'sister arts'. Indeed, there are manifold relationships between the two media/arts. Music can occur in literature in various ways and vice versa: works of literature can thematize music, they may be inspired by music, or attempt to transmit originally musical compositions (and, sometimes, vice versa); occasionally, literary texts may even appear to be 'musicalized'; last but not least, literary texts can be combined with music in one work (for instance in songs or operas). In this seminar, we will explore a selection of the various forms and functions of the intermedial relationships between literature and music (transmediality plurimediality, intermedial transposition, and intermedial reference in particular) after some theoretical reflections: these will include the characteristic features of both arts (with an emphasis on their similarities and differences) as well as the concept of intermediality and its various forms. As I am an emeritus professor of English literature, English language texts will be in focus.

**Aims:** Exploring medial specificities of both literature and music; making the students aware of the various forms of musico-literary interrelations; making them acquainted with basics of intermediality theory.

**Reading material/texts** (to be prepared in advance):

W. Wordsworth, "Daffodils"  
E. A. Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" (short story)  
J. Milton, "At a Solemn Musick"  
V. Woolf, "The String Quartet" (short story)

Further material will be provided by means of photocopies.

A knowledge of Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, is presupposed as well as some familiarity with musical notation.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

1. (22-10-2024-A)
0. PRELIMINARY REMARKS: motivations for, and objects, aims and structure of, the seminar
1. INTRODUCTION (I): INTERMEDIALITY THEORY AS AN APPROACH TO DISCUSSING 'LITERATURE AND MUSIC': terminology ('medium', 'intermediality'); principal systematic forms of intermediality
2. (22-10-2024-B)
2. INTRODUCTION (II): TRANSMEDIAL COMPARISON OF LITERATURE AND MUSIC - TWO SISTER ARTS? – medial similarities and differences
  - 2.1. Medial similarities and differences concerning metareferentiality: a parody of Wordsworth, "Daffodils", compared to a parody of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century symphony in W. A. Mozart, "Ein musikalischer Spaß" (a musical joke)
  - 2.2. Medial similarities and differences concerning narrativity: literary narrativity compared to R. Wagner, overture to *Tannhäuser* (time permitting)
3. (23-10-2024-A)
3. PLURIMEDIAL COMBINATIONS OF WORDS/LITERATURE AND MUSIC
  - 3.1. Lyrics and music in pop song (The Beatles, "Yesterday")
  - 3.2. Literary text (extracts) and music in the "Alan Parsons Project": E. A. Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"
4. (23-10-2024-B)
4. INTERMEDIAL TRANSPOSITION - Literature inspiring instrumental (programme) music: P. I. Tchaikovsky, "Romeo and Juliet" (fantasy overture)
5. 5. (24-10-2024-A)
6. INTERMEDIAL REFERENCE: thematization and imitation of music in literature
  - 5.1. Traditional conceptions of music in poetry: J. Milton, "At a Solemn Musick"
  - 5.2. Evocation of music: E. M. Forster, *Howards End*, chap. 5 (evocation of parts of L. van Beethoven's fifth symphony)
6. (24-10-2024-B)
- 5.3. Formal imitation of music in literature: the musicalization of fiction in V. Woolf, "The String Quartet"
6. CONCLUSION

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### (Research by seminar convener relevant to seminar)

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2. *Selected Essays on Intermediality by Werner Wolf (1992–2014): Theory and Typology, Literature-Music Relations, Transmedial Narratology, Miscellaneous Transmedial Phenomena*. Walter Bernhart, ed. Studies in Intermediality 10. Leiden/Boston, MA: Brill-Rodopi, 2018.

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