

**MUSIC 481/581 - Topics in Contemporary Music and Sonic Arts: Trends in
Orchestral Composition 2000-2025**

Winter 2026 – Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:30-10:50am

Instructor: Andriy Talpash

This seminar course is an exploration of orchestral works written in the last 25 years by various international composers. Composers will include Sofia Gubaidulina, Arvo Part, Per Nørgård, Unsuk Chin, Kaija Saariaho, Tristan Murail, among others. Each composition discussed in the term will entail a deep score study by examining various topics related to these works, including compositional aesthetics and influences, timbral considerations, orchestration, formal and other rhythmic structures, gestural shape and contour. In addition to in-class collective analysis, related assigned readings will also be discussed.