

The Hybrid-Highbrow Room: Mission Statement and Rules

Welcome to the Hybrid-Highbrow plug.dj room. This room and its community is dedicated to the sharing of Classical Music from around the globe. Classical Music is tricky to define, but it is understood here as music that has been carefully developed and defined over long periods of time, requires formal study and skill to create and perform, and is recognized by individual nations and the international community as such.

I. At Hybrid-Highbrow, we share five kinds of music: national Classical Music, Jazz, Opera, Broadway/Vaudeville, and performed soundtracks.

1. Classical Music. All nations have their Classical Music. In Europe and western Asia it is the music that we associate with the Common Practice Period of around 1600 to 1900, from Palestrina through Tchaikovsky. Today many Asian nations, particularly China, South Korea, and Japan, excel in performing this music. The United States shares in that tradition, but also pioneered the classical form known as Jazz. Argentina has Tango. Indonesia has Gamelan. Northern India has Shāstriya Sangīt. Beijing has Chinese Opera. Japan has the music of its national instrument, the Koto. Across Northern Africa and the Middle East national Classical Musics center around the Oud. All these kinds of music are welcome in this room.

2. Jazz. All improvisational forms associated with Jazz are welcome in this room. Popular pieces that integrate Jazz-like elements into their sound but include no formal improvisation are not.

3. Opera. European and Asian Operatic forms are welcome in this room, either in the form of individual solos or scene excerpts.

4. Broadway musical and Vaudeville performances are welcome in this room.

5. Performed soundtracks. Soundtracks that come from acoustic instrument

performances (orchestras; small ensembles) and derive from categories one through four are welcome in this room. Soundtracks based on popular music and digital software are not.

Hybridity is encouraged here. Chinese Euro-classical symphonic pieces, the Jazz/Classical fusion experiments of Duke Ellington and Charles Mingus, it's all good. BUT:

II. The following kinds of music are not welcome here:

1. Popular music is not allowed in this room. I have great love and respect for all forms of popular music, but that is not what Hybrid-Highbrow is about. Please do not come here with a Led Zeppelin or Elvis Presley tune and insist that it is a "classic." You will receive The Boot quickly and without apology.

2. Folk music is not allowed in this room. Most classical forms derive from folk music, but they add a highly formalized structure to the experience. So Classical Music forms that draw from Blues, Bluegrass, Irish Jigs, or Sea Shanties, just to give a few examples, are welcome here. Folks music itself is not.

3. Pseudo Classical Music is not welcome in this room. Popular artists who imitate classical sounds to produce easy listening tunes are not welcome here. Examples: Yanni, Yiruma, and Carter Burwell.

III. Behavior:

1. No abusive language please. Do not use foul words here. Do not use sexist, homophobic, or racist words here. Do not insult anyone. Do not threaten anyone. Do not bully anyone. Disagree respectfully when necessary. Bottom line: BE NICE or The Boot will arrive quickly.

2. You may promote artists or musical events that relate to the kind of music heard on Hybrid-Highbrow. You may not promote anything else.

3. Please respect our time limit of no more than 20 minutes per selection.

4. Don't argue with me about the rules. I am happy to consider modifications of these parameters, which are, after all, subjective. Contact me at matthew@radiosurvivor.com with your thoughts. But please respect the fact that I am the founder and maintainer of this room, and must draw lines somewhere. There are many other venues for music listening in cyberspace.

IV. Resources:

This room has a twitter account: [@hybridhighbrow](https://twitter.com/hybridhighbrow). Other social media venues will emerge as needed.

V. About me.

I'm Matthew Lasar (aka "gazoink"). I play classical piano and teach history at the University of California at Santa Cruz. I'm the operations editor for a blog called Radio Survivor (radiosurvivor.com), which covers social media sites like plug.dj. I believe in world peace, international understanding, the sharing of cultures . . . all that mushy stuff. Welcome to Hybrid-Highbrow and thanks for following our rules.