

21M.260: STRAVINSKY TO THE PRESENT

ASSIGNMENT due at Class 23, May 5

Reading: Auner, p. 293-305

Anthology work: John Adams, *Doctor Atomic*, Act I, Scene 3: "Batter my heart"

Supplemental: Adams' *Nixon in China*, "The People are the Heroes Now" and "News"
Philip Glass, *Einstein on the Beach*

Before you begin, skim the Grove Music Online article about John Adams. Take a few moments as well to read the plot summary in the anthology notes and understand the context of this aria, "Batter my heart." Now, watch the excerpt on Met Opera and note: to what extent is this a "traditional" operatic aria (with musical details), and to what extent does Adams seem to write the concept of an aria through a minimalist or postminimalist "lens" (with musical details)?

How does Auner explain "postminimalism"?

Supplemental listening (more Adams and Philip Glass)

Watch both excerpts with *no distractions*. For each excerpt, note the features most closely associated with the musical styles of "minimalism."

Nixon in China:

Einstein on the Beach:

Which of these two works is more traditional and which more radical as an interpretation of the word "opera"? What specific musical/dramatic details substantiate your judgment?

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