

The Imagination of Glenn Gould



**A LIFE Institute Course
Winter 2017
Bob Fabian**

[Session 6]

Anniversaries

- the 85th of Glenn Gould's birth
- the 70th of Gould's debut with the Toronto Symphony at age 15
- the 60th of Gould's historic Russia tour, when he became the first major Western artist to perform in the Soviet Union
- the 60th of Gould's first concert with the Berlin Philharmonic
- the 60th of Gould's first concert with the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein
- the 50th of Glenn Gould's ground-breaking experimental "contrapuntal" radio documentary, *The Idea of North*, created as a CBC Centennial project
- the 40th of NASA's launch of the Voyager I space probe (which is now 11 billion miles from earth), containing the "Golden Record" - a musical snapshot of the best of the world's music, featuring Glenn Gould playing Bach

Plan for Today

- Finish viewing *Genius Within*
 - We've seen 43.5 minutes of this 112 minute film
 - View the next 45 minutes in the first half of this session
 - View the remaining 22.5 minutes in the second half
- Open discussion
 - What can we gain from his work, ... and his life?
 - What did he bring to a performance?
 - What should we expect from any performance?
 - What's our responsibility as listeners?

Genius Within

GENIUS WITHIN
The Inner Life *of* Glenn Gould

A photograph of a person walking on a sandy dune at sunset. The person is silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow light of the setting sun. The dune is in the foreground, and the background shows a vast, flat landscape under a hazy sky.

Start 43 minutes, 30 seconds in

Open Discussion

- What can we gain from his work, and his life?
- What did he bring to a performance?
 - What should every performer offer?
- What's our responsibility?
 - What did we personally gain?
- Open Question
 - Will Glenn Gould still speak to us in 50 years?
 - What future performer might play a similar role?



Well Tempered Clavier, Book I (beginning)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrJjPYi_vhM&ytbChannel=rolldito