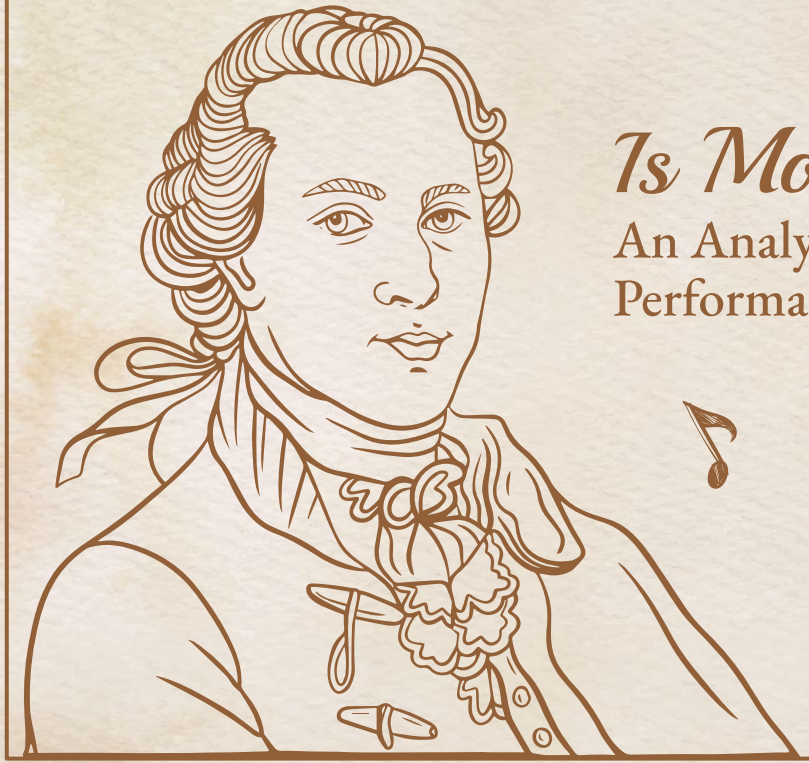


Is Mozart Really That Popular?

An Analysis of the New York Philharmonic Performance History and Concert Programming

Daniel Liu

Motivation and Goal

Myth or Fact?	"Classical music is dying." How can we quantify trends in concert programming across nearly 200 years?
Critique	Classical music lacks diversity in performance, visibility, and programming.
Clichéness	Is classical music programming truly as repetitive or cliché as commonly perceived?
Connection	What is the connection between programming and institutional priorities such as concert attendance, programming, profit, and inclusion?

GOAL: an analytical tool for researchers and music directors that can help answer these questions

Key Terms

Program

Concert

Composer

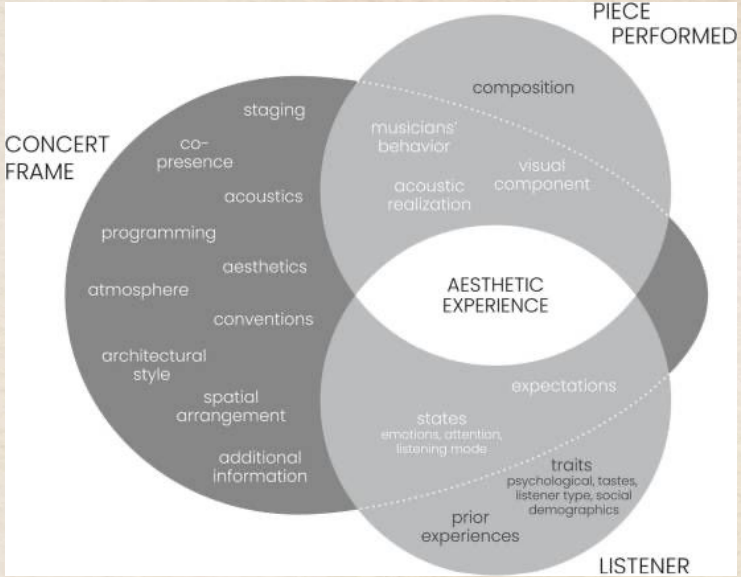
Piece

Symphonic / Orchestral

Related Works

The Field of Concert Studies

- Coined by Martin Tröndle in 2021
- Sociological approach to dissecting the classical concert as a human object of study
- Non-statistical arguments made about augmenting the accessibility, innovation, and diversity of concerts

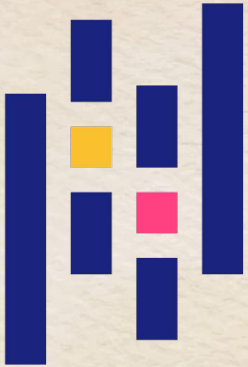


Wald-Fuhrmann et. al.
Music Listening in Classical Concerts: Theory, Literature Review, and Research Program

Approach

Data Source

Data Manipulation and Cleaning

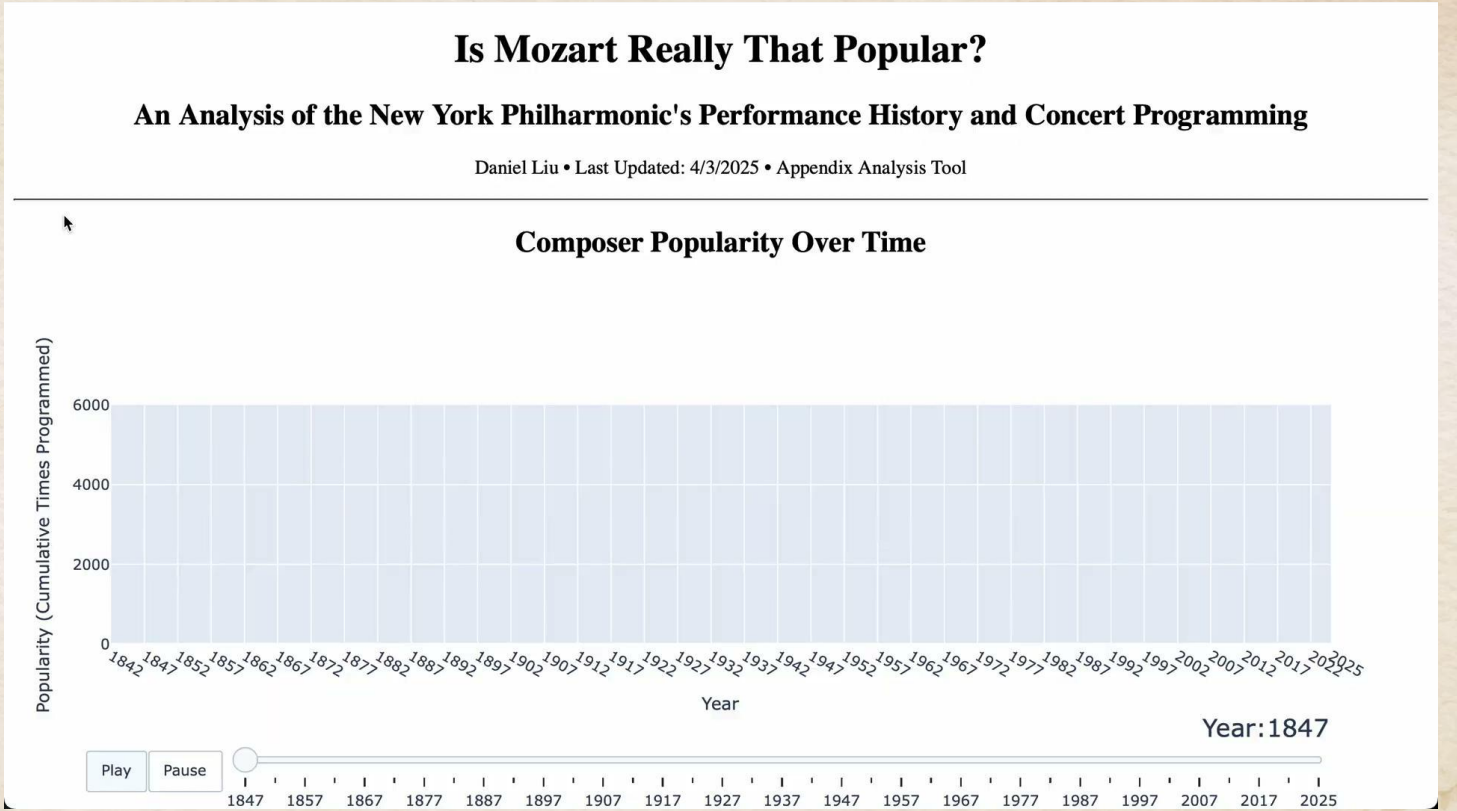


Data Analysis

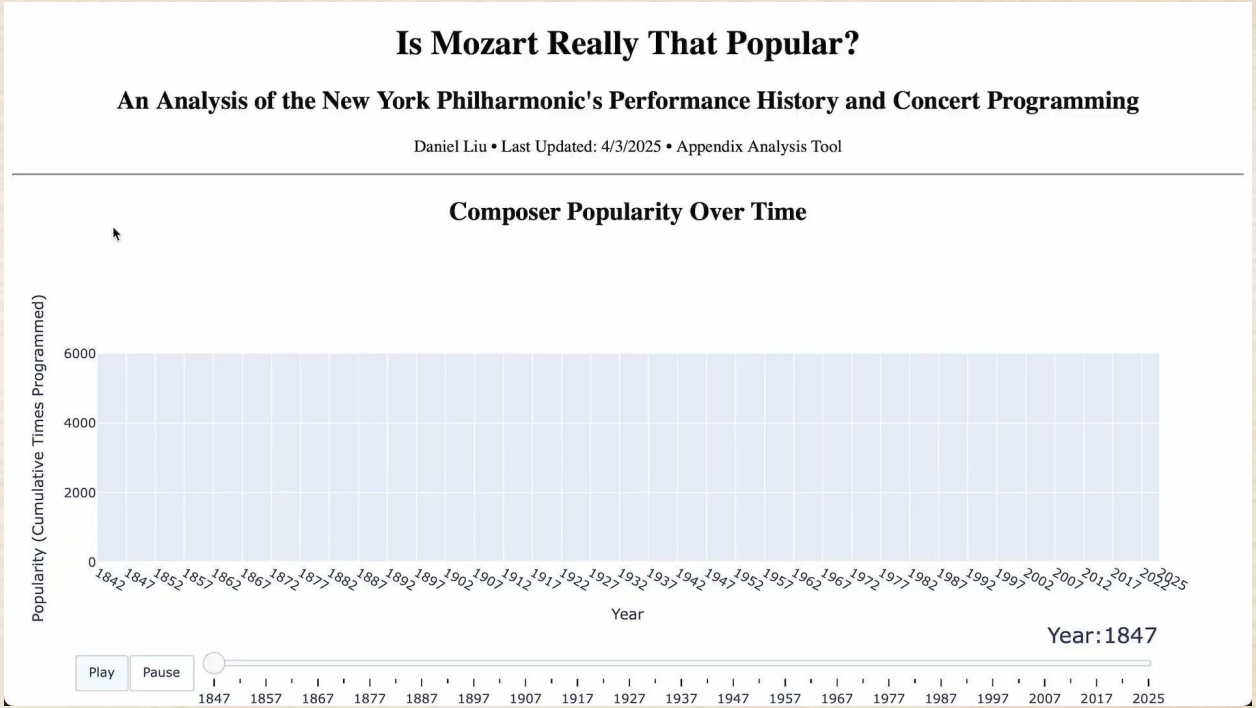
Visualization

Demo!

Features


Is Mozart Really That Popular?
An Analysis of the New York Philharmonic's Performance History and Concert Programming
Daniel Liu • Last Updated: 4/3/2025 • Appendix Analysis Tool
Composer Popularity Over Time
Popularity (Cumulative Times Programmed)
6000
4000
2000
0
1842 1847 1852 1857 1862 1867 1872 1877 1882 1887 1892 1897 1902 1907 1912 1917 1922 1927 1932 1937 1942 1947 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 2002 2007 2012 2017 2025
Year
Year:1847
Play
Pause
1847 1857 1867 1877 1887 1897 1907 1917 1927 1937 1947 1957 1967 1977 1987 1997 2007 2017 2025

Case Study: Female Composers



Conclusion

Empirical Evidence

of patterns in quantifying programming diversity, representation, and clichéness.

Tool Effectiveness

in capturing trends and providing interactive features to support researcher case studies.

Implications

a data-driven approach to programming innovation, challenging ‘standardized’ repertoire.

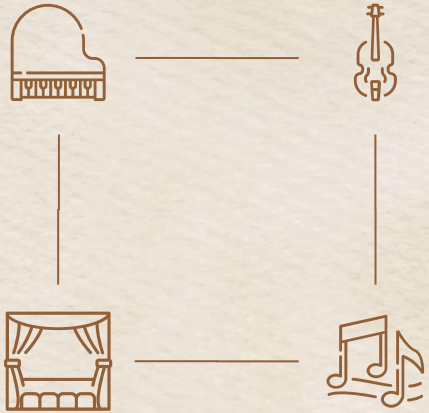
Future Work

Technical

Enhanced GUI and visualizations.

Data

Resolve issue of overcounting and ask more questions.



Expansion

Include data from more orchestras.

Correlation

Between empirical evidence and sociocultural movements.

Acknowledgements

Thank you! Questions?