

- ♪ **Video clip:** *Bacon's Screaming Popes* (Christie's, 2019)
- ♪ **Video clip:** *The Scandalous Life and Horrifying Paintings of a Genius* (2025)

E. Max Moves North

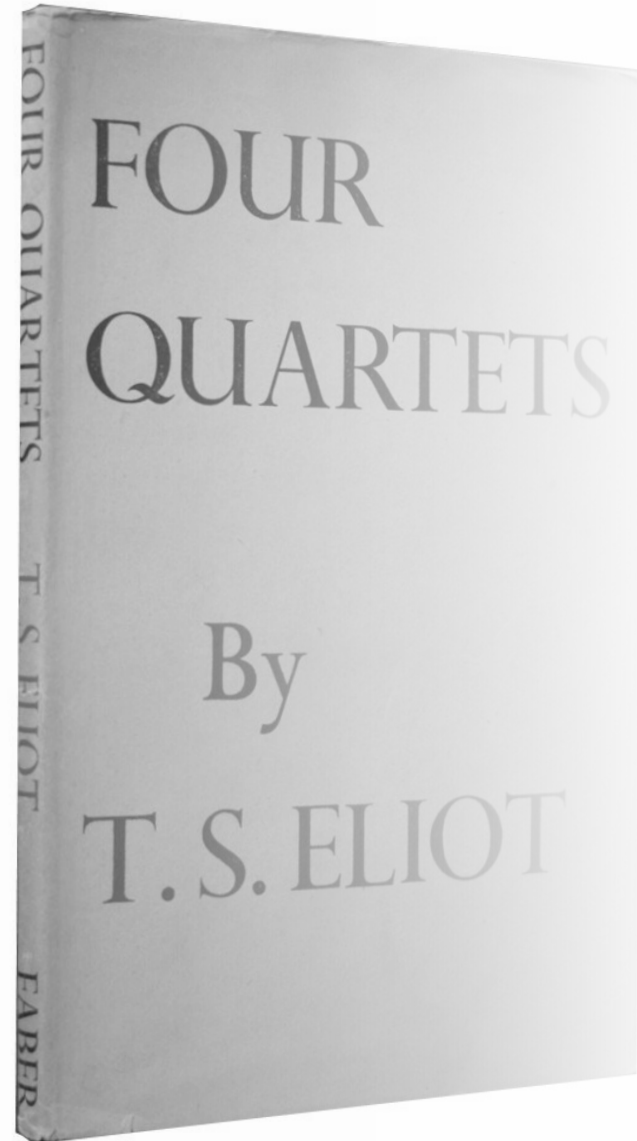
Peter Maxwell Davies began as a rigid serialist to match the complexity of any music to be written on the Continent. He found his way to more popular appeal first by applying the style to dramatic subjects, and later by echoing the landscape and folk music of his adopted Orkney.

- ♪ **Video clip:** *Two Young Composers* (BBC Monitor, 1961)
- ♪ **Davies:** *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, exc. (1969, Kelvin Thomas)
- ♪ **Davies:** *Farewell to Stromness* (1980)
- ♪ **Davies:** *Orkney Wedding with Sunrise* (1985), beginning and end

Francis **Bacon** (1909–92, *British painter*), Sir Anthony **Caro** (1924–2013, *British sculptor*), TS **Eliot** (Thomas Stearns Eliot, 1888–1965, *American-British poet*), Lucian **Freud** (1922–2011, *British painter*), Dame Barbara **Hepworth** (1903–75, *British sculptor*), Sir Peter **Maxwell Davies** (1934–2016, *British composer*), Dudley **Moore** (1935–2002, *British composer, comedian, and actor*), Henry **Moore** (1898–1986, *British sculptor*), Alan **Rawsthorne** (1905–71, *British composer*)

<http://www.brunyate.com/Popularity>
 rogerbrunyate@gmail.com

Popularity... and then?



10. Yesterday's Modernists
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TS ELIOT, HENRY MOORE, FRANCIS BACON, PETER MAXWELL DAVIES, all leading modernists when I was still living in Great Britain. their names widely known even if their works appealed only to a more esoteric audience. Are they still names to conjure with now? Or is yesterday's modernism today's old news?

We shall find different trajectories in each case. Towards the end of his life, **Eliot** wrote for wider audiences, such as the West End theatre, but his Grand Old Man status may have worked against him after his death. **Moore** made no concessions in later life, but ploughed all his money into a foundation that has ensured the continuity of his own work and supported others. Rather than popular, **Bacon** became more private in his later work, but his obsession was rewarded with posthumous sale prices going through the roof. **Maxwell Davies**, arguably the most radical of all when he started out, definitely mellowed in later years, helped in part by his move to the distant Orkney Islands.

Regardless of how they will be presented, the items below are listed in chronological order. *rb.*

A. Four Timelines

An introduction to the four artists mentioned above and the shape of their respective careers.

B. Eliot's Epiphanies

Eliot's *Waste Land*, in which cultural allusions of all kinds combine with concrete imagery from the everyday world, detonated modern poetry

from within in 1922. He would repeat this manner in less extreme form until *Four Quartets* (1945), before turning his attention to the stage.

- ♪ **Eliot:** *Love Song of Alfred J. Prufrock* (1917), opening (Roscius)
- ♪ **Eliot:** *The Waste Land* (1922), analysis (Oliver Tearle)
- ♪ **Eliot:** *The Waste Land*, opening (read by Fiona Shaw)
- ♪ **Eliot:** *Four Quartets* (1945), opening (Ralph Fiennes *onstage*)
- ♪ **Rawsthorne:** *Jellicle Cats* (1954, Alan Armstrong)

C. Anatomical Abstractions

However apparently abstract, Henry Moore's sculptures generally bear some relation to the human form. In later years, they increasingly come into dialogue with the landscape also.

Moore: *Reclining Woman* (1930, Ottawa), with Mayan *Chac Mool*

Moore: *Draped Reclining Woman* (1958, Stuttgart)

Moore: *The Arch* (1969, Schwäbisch Hall)

Moore: *Reclining Figure* (1970, Tel Aviv)

♪ **Video extracts:** Henry Moore at Perry Green (Geoffrey Worsdale)

D. Dissolves on the Canvas

Trying many careers in his attempts to escape from the restrictions of a middle-class upbringing, Francis Bacon came to painting relatively late. But his style, in which paint seems literally to smear and dissolve on the canvas, became an inescapable expression of his tormented psyche and *louche* lifestyle.

Bacon: *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* (1945, Tate)

Bacon: *Study after Velázquez's Pope Innocent X* (1953, Des Moines)

Bacon: *Portrait of a Man with Glasses III* (1963, Christie's)

Bacon: *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* (1969)

Bacon: *Black Triptych #3* (1973)

♪ **Film trailer:** *Love Is the Devil: Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon* (1998; Derek Jacobi, Bacon; Daniel Craig, George Dyer)

♪ **Video clip:** *Francis Bacon: a Brush with Violence* (2017)