



- **Isherwood, Christopher** – *Goodbye to Berlin*
After abandoning the medicine academic study, the 25-year-old Christopher Wood needed a new direction in his life. The aspiring writer moved to Berlin in 1929 where he quickly found inspiration in the cultural scene and sexual freedom of Weimar-era Berlin. *Goodbye to Berlin* is a fictionalized autobiography that tells the evolution of the German mentality towards Nazism through the everyday life of the author. This book was a suggestion of Prof. Joseph Pearson, who emphasizes the beautiful writing style of the author.
- **Fallada, Hans** – *Alone in Berlin*
Alone in Berlin was first published in 1947 and would not be translated to English until 62 years later. Rudolf Ditzgen, who wrote under the name Hans Fallada, spent a great part of his life in psychiatric hospitals and in prison but already reached international recognition as a writer with his first book *Little Man – What now*. *Alone in Berlin* tells the story of a Berlin working couple during World War II that, after losing their beloved son to the war in France, start to drop postcards denouncing Hitler all over the city as an act of resistance. *Alone in Berlin* was recommended by Prof. Joseph Pearson, who wrote: "A page-turner written in a hurry in 1945-6. But a thoughtful investigation into the limits of individual resistance in Nazi Berlin"
- **Regener, Sven** – *Berlin Blues*
Defined by Prof. Joseph Pearson as a "dry portrait of the [Kreuzberg] neighborhood full of misadventures", the story of *Berlin Blues* takes place in the Berlin alternative neighborhood Kreuzberg in 1989, just before the fall of the Wall. The main character, Herr Lehmann, is a 30-year-old bartender who has no ambitions and no big goals but offers the reader a brilliant journey beginning with a night where he plies the street dog with whiskey. *Berlin Blues* was written by Sven Regener, who is not only a writer but also a member of the German band Element of Crime.
- **Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi** – *Americanah*
The third novel of the awarded author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie approaches themes like migration, racism, gender, identity and loneliness. *Americanah* is a suggestion of Prof. Christiane Tewinkel and is an epic love story about two childhood sweethearts at school in Nigeria that later take different paths and emigrate to the USA and to England. The main characters Ifemelu and Obinze both struggle with the sense of dislocation, although Ifemelu is in the USA to pursue her postgraduate studies and Obinze try his luck as an illegal immigrant in Britain. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Nigeria and is recognized as one of the most important writers of her generation.
- **Bostridge, Ian** – *Schubert's Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession*
Winterreise is perhaps the most famous and challenging song cycles ever composed. The English historian Ian Bostridge explores this masterpiece from different perspectives such as the literary, historical and psychological one. According to him, the cycle can be described as the "secret coded lament for the reactionary climate at large in Germany and Austria in the 1820s". On the other hand, the author also raises the question of the meaning of the songs nowadays and how it does connect with us. Ian Bostridge was not only trained as a scholar, but also a tenor. This book was a suggestion by Prof. Christiane Tewinkel, who wrote: "Tenor Ian Bostridge writes about his experiences with Schubert's famous song cycle, providing long detours into the rich history of the 19th century".
- **Cole, Teju** – *Open City*
The second book of Teju Cole tells the story of a Nigerian psychiatrist who is finishing his studies in New York. Son of a German mother and a Nigerian father, his life was always accompanied by the feeling of being an outsider. The narrative follows the recent break-up with his girlfriend and his long walks through New York, which provides him with a number of encounters with different people. The loneliness and the encounters show two different sides of the narrative: the social documentation and



the relation with historical events and the reflexive introspection. Teju Cole is a Nigerian-American writer, art historian and photographer. This book was a suggestion by Prof. Christiane Tewinkel who also reminded about the plenty of references to classical music in this book.

- **Eribon, Didier** – *Returning to Reims*
Returning to Reims was recommended by Prof. Tewinkel and is a memoir by the French sociology professor Didier Eribon. In this autobiography, which can also be considered a sociological essay, the author accounts his childhood in a working-class family marked by violence and homophobia and his trajectory as a sociology student and as a gay man. At the same time, Didier Eribon analyzes the political and social aspects of the working class.
- **Wallace, David Foster** – *This Is Water*
"A beautiful essay, on how we as humans comport and should comport ourselves in daily life" is how Prof. Christiane Tewinkel described her last suggestion This is Water by David Foster Wallace. This book is actually the transcription of his only commencement speech, addressed to students of Kenyon College in 2005. Defined as a "book that gives you hope" by the newspaper The Guardian, This is water offers a practical philosophy to the challenges of life.
- **Shelemay, Kay Kaufman** – *Soundscapes: Exploring music in a changing world*
Soundscapes proposes a new organization of the study of world music which, instead of determining geography as a framework, rather works with the cultural significance of the music. The book comprises three main parts, namely: Listening to Music, Transmitting Music and Understanding Music. The chapters approach themes such as the definition of music, migration, memory, mobility, ritual, politics and identity. Furthermore, the author offers also a great number of case studies, listening guides, great pictures and suggestions for experiments.
- **Cook, Nicholas** – *Music: a very short introduction*
This book is indeed a very short introduction, but it is a great opportunity to revisit fundamentals of music. Beyond that it is also a good first acquaintance to the work of the musicologist Nicholas Cook. In this work the reader is invited not only to think about music and the role it plays in our lives, but to critically examine the experience of listening to music and the roles of performers and listeners. Definitely a good read for every musician!
- **Bausch, Richard and Cassill, R.V. (Ed.)** – *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*
This anthology features 152 works by 130 authors published between 1835 and 2011. Among the writers are Joseph Conrad, Julio Cortázar, Franz Kafka, Alice Munro and Ernest Hemingway. Before every short story a brief biography of the author is offered, which is a good way to get to know authors better. The anthology enlightens the vast landscape of short story across time and continents and the variety of stories make it the perfect summer reading.
- **Campbell, Patricia Shehan and Wiggings, Trevor (Ed.)** – *The Oxford Handbook of Children's Musical Cultures*
The Oxford Handbook Series offers high-level articles by relevant scholars in their fields. It is a great opportunity to become acquainted with new topics and to follow the latest research in the respective area. Among the approached topics are children's culture, the role of music in education and development and cultural identities. This collection brings an aspect of music studies that can be often seen as unusual and particular, which is exactly why it was chosen to be part of the summer reading list. During summer vacation is the perfect time to get off the routine and search for new things to explore.



- **Samuel Moyn** – *The Last Utopia*
A suggestion by Prof. Yael Amog, *The Last Utopia* is a revision proposal of the human rights history. According to the author, the origin of the modern concept of human rights cannot be related fully to the Enlightenment, to the anticolonial and antislavery movements or even with the Second World War, but to a much more recent moment during the 1970's.
- **Benedict Anderson** – *Imagined Communities*
Imagined Communities was a suggestion by Prof. Yael Amog and the library staff as well. The political scientist and historian Benedict Anderson explores the origins of nationalism in this book, investigating the sense of belonging on a personal and cultural level that this phenomenon involves. Anderson bring many examples of processes that supported the creation of communities, like the development of print, vernacular languages, nationalist movements in America and the anti-imperialist resistances in Africa.
- **Edward Said** – *Orientalism*
Published in 1978, *Orientalism* became a modern classic. In this book, Edward Said discusses the West's historical, cultural and politic perceptions of the Eastern World. He traces back the inaccurate representations of the Orient held by the Occident, and investigates the interests behind such representations. An investigation of the nature of the East and of the relations between colonizer and colonized are of course approached subjects in this work.