

From: Columbia Museum of Art  
Sent: 4/1/2015 3:54:37 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: Music 101 Explores Comedy in the 18th Century

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:  
RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE**

April 1, 2015

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**Music 101 Series Returns with Dr. Peter Hoyt to Explore Comedy in the 18th Century**

*Wednesdays, April 8 through May 13, 2015*

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/c19373e7001/03e216e3-de0c-4ec8-9e9f-ca14e24d4fc1.jpg>

**Columbia, S.C.** - The CMA presents "Comedy in the Age of Revolutions: Popular Humor in the 18th Century," a six-week "Music 101" lecture series with Dr. Peter A. Hoyt, on Wednesdays beginning April 8 through May 13, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This informative and entertaining series explores how popular forms of comic art began to undermine the *ancien régime* in the century before Napoleon. In addition to examining the music, literature, and fashion of the time, particular attention is paid to the brilliant satirical drawings that spawned the modern political cartoon.

Before the American and French revolutions, tragedy and comedy were defined by social class. Whereas aristocratic characters were always represented in serious situations, the lower orders of society were considered intrinsically comic and thus the proper subjects of comedy. By asserting that "all men are created equal," the Declaration of Independence was therefore challenging assumptions about both society and humor.

"The eighteenth century was, perhaps more than any previous epoch, given to the use of wit and satire to accomplish serious goals," says Hoyt. "When the ancient Greeks wrote about laughter, they often portrayed it as something malicious, as something that implied the inferiority of the person at the butt of the joke. In the years around 1700, however, English playwrights began to regard comedy as a vehicle for correcting the ills of society, even the ills that stemmed from the aristocracy. This new ability to laugh at everybody implied an equality that would, in time, become enshrined in the revolutions of 1776 and 1789."

Dr. Hoyt, a former president of the Mozart Society of America, is the CMA's adjunct curator for music and a frequent guest lecturer and program annotator at Lincoln Center in New York.

Series: \$80 / \$64 for members. \$15 single lectures.

For more information, visit [columbiamuseum.org](http://columbiamuseum.org) <[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001YgSwLWzipBdQdmwtay8IVQBdL1Bq9FOnpdKP7Ucx0oKBPak7D-gzuGa1JB9sQ9VoCd3EtAtWwqlkGsKV8dl4lb4Bi\\_LeG5TrXu7vLt2V3s73dvGvHE-rU57x4-19Bbwlmkz20bCSqQT6dT6Jjx4cb2527ILZoug2cvUE4Oz0jVC9a62jeQyowQ==&c=-Eblwbw-](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001YgSwLWzipBdQdmwtay8IVQBdL1Bq9FOnpdKP7Ucx0oKBPak7D-gzuGa1JB9sQ9VoCd3EtAtWwqlkGsKV8dl4lb4Bi_LeG5TrXu7vLt2V3s73dvGvHE-rU57x4-19Bbwlmkz20bCSqQT6dT6Jjx4cb2527ILZoug2cvUE4Oz0jVC9a62jeQyowQ==&c=-Eblwbw-)>

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## About the CMA

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses nearly 7,000 works and spans thousands of years of history, representing a range of world cultures. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 135,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, which appeal to a wide range of visitors and students. It is the recipient of a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education and an Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

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