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CLASSIC *fm*

## Eric Whitacre on critics and McDonald's

Friday, 29 October 2010 16:52



## Related links

- [The Classic FM Interview](#)
- [Eric Whitacre's biography](#)

In an interview with Nick Ferrari, to be broadcast on Classic FM tomorrow, Eric Whitacre speaks out against music critics who dismiss 'popular' [classical music](#).

The American composer tells Nick:

"There is a certain kind of critic that thinks of the terms 'populist' and 'popular' and 'engaging' as derogatory terms. For me those are huge compliments. My whole goal when I'm writing music is to communicate with people."

Eric Whitacre is aiming to engage people around the world with his music and to smash the record for the World's Largest Online Choir with his latest project. He is appealing for singers of all levels to submit YouTube clips of his much-loved masterpiece, *Sleep* .

On The [Classic FM](#) Interview, Whitacre also tells Nick Ferrari about his first taste of stardom: an appearance on a commercial for McDonald's when he was 12 years old! You can see it below.

**Hear Eric Whitacre's full interview with Nick Ferrari on [The Classic FM Interview](#) on Saturday 30 October at 9pm.**

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Heavy snowfall and freezing conditions are expected to cause major disruption across most of Britain again today.



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Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin is no longer attending the 2018 World Cup vote in Zurich tomorrow.



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