Emeritus favorite Robert Yaffe returns to study the life and operas of Richard Strauss, the last of the German Romantic composers and one of the most controversial figures in Western music. Strauss’ life spanned the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. We will examine in detail his marriage to the difficult Pauline de Ahna, as well as his relationship with the Third Reich. The course will include video and audio excerpts of all of his operas, from the horrors of Salome and Elektra, to the Viennese elegance of his masterpiece, Der Rosenkavalier, to the romantic comedy of Arabella. Also included will be lesser known but remarkable works such as Intermezzo, an opera based on an actual incident in Strauss's life that nearly cost him his marriage, and Die Schweigsame Frau (The Silent Woman), with a libretto by a Jewish librettist. Incredible music coupled with an incredible life make this a class not to be missed!