FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN
1732–1809

Franz Joseph Haydn was born in Rohrau, Austria, a small village southeast of Vienna. As a young boy he sang in the church choir and also played the violin and piano. Most of his musical training was at St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna where he served as a choirboy until his voice changed at age 16. In 1761, Haydn was appointed assistant music director to Prince Esterhazy, a powerful Hungarian nobleman. He wrote music and conducted the orchestra for the Esterhazy Family over a period of 30 years.

Composing during the Classical period, Haydn wrote 104 symphonies, a large volume of chamber music and several large choral works, including *The Seasons* (1798-1801) and *The Creation* (1796-1798). Haydn made two trips to London, England and composed 12 symphonies that were first performed there. Among his most famous symphonies are the *Farewell* (1772), *Surprise* (1791) and *Drumroll* (1795).

1732  Birth of Franz Joseph Haydn, Birth of George Washington

1742  Handel’s *Messiah* first performed in Dublin, Ireland

1752  Benjamin Franklin proves that lightning is electricity

1760  George III crowned King of England

1770  James Cook discovers east coast of Australia

1775  American Revolution begins

1783  Mozart composes *Mass in C minor*

1802  Beethoven composes *Symphony #2 in D Major*

1809  James Madison becomes 4th President of U.S.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Haydn was born in what country?

2. How long did Haydn work for the Esterhazy Family?

3. Haydn composed how many symphonies?

4. Name two of his most well-known symphonies.

5. Name another composer who was writing music during Haydn’s lifetime.
JOHANN STRAUSS, JR.
1825–1899

Johann Strauss, Jr., sometimes referred to as Johann Strauss the younger, came from a musically rich family. His father, Johann Strauss the elder, was a popular composer of waltzes and marches, and his brothers, Josef and Eduard, also composed music. Born in Vienna, Austria, Strauss composed waltzes and polkas that were extremely popular in his day. He conducted his own orchestra that played for parties where elegant Viennese couples danced through the night.

Writing towards the beginning of the Romantic period, Strauss also composed several operettas which could be compared to the music written today for the Broadway stage. Two of his most famous operettas are Die Fledermaus (The Bat) and Der Zigeunerbaron (The Gypsy Baron). The Blue Danube and The Emperor are among the most popular of the hundreds of waltzes that Strauss composed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1825</th>
<th>Birth of Johann Strauss, Jr.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Michigan becomes a state of the U.S.</td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>The Mormons found Salt Lake City</td>
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<td>1859</td>
<td>Work begins on the Suez Canal</td>
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<td>1861</td>
<td>The Confederate States of America formed</td>
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<td>1867</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td>Mark Twain writes The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</td>
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<td>1885</td>
<td>Brahms composes Symphony #4 in E minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Sibelius composes Symphony #1 in E minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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QUESTIONS

1. What type of music did Johann Strauss, Jr. compose?

2. Strauss composed during what period of music?

3. What famous novel was written during Strauss’ lifetime?

4. Two famous waltzes composed by Strauss are ___________________________ and ___________________________.

6
EDVARD GRIEG
1843-1907

Edvard Grieg is, without a doubt, Norway’s most famous composer. Writing during the late Romantic period, he used Norwegian folk music as an inspiration for his own compositions. Born in Bergen, Norway, he studied composition in both Germany and Denmark. He was also a virtuoso pianist and conductor. Grieg was very active in Norway’s quest to become independent from Sweden, and has been identified as a very nationalistic composer.

Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A Minor (1868) is one of his most famous compositions. He wrote this masterpiece at the age of 25. The two Peer Gynt suites, composed in 1876 to accompany Henrik Ibsen’s play about a young Norwegian peasant, are also well-known and frequently performed today.

1843  Birth of Edvard Grieg, Charles Dickens writes A Christmas Carol

1853  Verdi composes the operas Il Trovatore and La Traviata

1861  April 12 is the outbreak of the American Civil War

1873  Tchaikovsky composes Symphony #2 in Moscow

1876  Brahms composes Symphony #1, Opus 68

1882  American Baseball Association founded

1894  Rudyard Kipling writes The Jungle Book

1904  Work begins on the Panama Canal

1907  Baden Powell founds the Boy Scout Movement

QUESTIONS

1. __________________________ was an inspiration for many of Grieg’s compositions.

2. True or False: Grieg was very active in Norway’s quest to become independent from Russia.

3. Name one other composer who was writing music during Grieg’s lifetime.

4. The play Peer Gynt was written by Henrik ________________________.
**STEPHEN FOSTER**
1826–1864

Stephen Foster was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania and spent most of his life there even though his over 200 songs often depict life in the rural American South. He taught himself how to play the clarinet at the age of six, and could play any tune by ear. He had very little formal training as a composer, but had a very special gift for writing memorable melodies.

Many of Stephen Foster’s songs were written for the minstrel shows that were very popular before and after the Civil War. *I Dream of Jeannie, Camptown Races* and *Oh! Susanna* are three of his most famous songs.

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**1836** Texas wins independence from Mexico. Gen. Sam Houston becomes President of the Texas Republic.

**1842** The polka, a lively dance of Czech origin becomes popular.

**1847** Verdi composes the opera *Macbeth*.

**1850** California becomes a state of the U.S.

**1851** Gold is discovered in New South Wales and Victoria, Australia.

**1863** President Lincoln issues *Emancipation Proclamation*; all slaves are declared free.

**1864** Louis Pasteur invents the process of “pasteurization”.

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**QUESTIONS**

1. True or False: Stephen Foster was born in Pennsylvania and wrote songs depicting life in the American South.

2. What famous American author was writing at the time Stephen Foster was born?

3. True or False: Foster had a special gift for writing great symphonies.

4. Two of Foster’s famous songs are ___________________________ and ___________________________.

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8
Johannes Brahms
1833–1897

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, Germany. Among musicians, he is often referred to as one of the “Three B’s”: Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms. His father was a double bass player in the local symphony and young Johannes studied piano. He helped his family financially by playing popular music in the Hamburg dance halls. As a young man, Brahms became very good friends with the composer Robert Schumann and his wife Clara, and actually lived with them for a time. His career as a composer was greatly helped by this association.

Writing during the Romantic period, Brahms composed four symphonies, several solo concertos and many chamber pieces. His style of composing was so much a continuation of what Beethoven had done that his First Symphony has been referred to as Beethoven’s 10th. Brahms’s music always reflects his love of form and structure. He composed his famous German Requiem for chorus and orchestra between 1857 and 1868.

1833 Birth of Johannes Brahms, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna becomes President of Mexico
1843 Beginning of skiing as a sport in Norway
1862 Jean Foucault successfully measures the speed of light
1865 Confederate States of America formally surrender, U.S. Civil War ends
1867 Sir John Macdonald becomes first Prime Minister of Canada
1884 Mark Twain writes Huckleberry Finn
1888 George Eastman perfects “Kodak” box camera
1892 Tchaikovsky composes The Nutcracker ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia
1897 William McKinley inaugurated as 25th President of U.S.

Questions

1. True or False: Johannes Brahms was a German composer.

2. Name a very famous American novel that was written during Brahms’s lifetime.

3. How many symphonies did Brahms write?

4. What are the names of the composer and his wife who were Brahms’s best friends?
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
1756–1791

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria and was perhaps the most famous child prodigy ever. His father, Leopold, was a composer and violinist who recognized his son’s talent at a very early age. Wolfgang was composing by age five, and toured Europe playing the piano at age six. By the time he was 16, Mozart had already written several symphonies, sonatas and concertos.

Along with composers Haydn and Beethoven, Mozart developed many of the symphonic forms that define the classical period of music. He wrote 41 symphonies, numerous solo concertos and several famous operas. Unfortunately, he died young, at age 35, shortly after composing his famous *Requiem* for chorus and orchestra. Mozart’s *Symphony #40 in G Minor* (1788), *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (1787) and the operas *Don Giovanni* (1787) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786) are some of his most well-known compositions.

| 1756 | Birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart |
| 1760 | Haydn composes *Symphonies #2, 3, 4, and 5* |
| 1763 | *The Peace of Paris* treaty yields much of Canada to Great Britain |
| 1764 | London, England introduces practice of numbering houses |
| 1770 | Handel’s *Messiah* first performed in New York |
| 1783 | American Revolutionary War ends |
| 1787 | The Constitution of the U.S. signed in Philadelphia |
| 1789 | Beginning of the French Revolution |
| 1791 | Haydn composes *Surprise Symphony* |

**Questions**

1. Mozart’s exceptional talents, shown at a very young age, allow him to be referred to as a _____________.

2. Besides Mozart, two other very famous classical composers were _____________ and _____________.

3. The last composition Mozart wrote before he died at age 35 was _____________.

4. What war was taking place during part of Mozart’s lifetime?
William Billings
1746–1800

William Billings was born in Boston, Massachusetts and was self-taught as a composer. His job was that of a tanner (someone who makes leather from animal skins). He composed several fuguing tunes which are simple three and four part works that feature melodic imitation. Billings’ first published book was The New England Psalm-Singer. The cover of that book was engraved by the famous American patriot Paul Revere. Although Billings wrote during the Classical period, his music is quite different than music written by Haydn and Mozart during that same time.

Chester is probably Billings’ most well-known song. Its words reflect the growing tension between the North American Colonies and Great Britain. When the American Revolutionary War broke out, Chester became the “fight song” of the New England Regiments. William Schuman, a modern American composer, composed his contemporary setting of Chester in 1956.

1746  Birth of William Billings
1749  Handel composes Music for the Royal Fireworks
1765  Potato becomes most popular European foodstuff
1771  First edition of Encyclopedia Britannica
1774  The Quebec Act gives French Canadians political and religious rights
1776  American Congress writes Declaration of Independence
1786  Mozart composes the opera The Marriage of Figaro
1797  John Adams inaugurated President of U.S., Thomas Jefferson, Vice President
1800  First electric battery invented by Alessandro Volta

Questions
1. A simple three and four part work that features melodic imitation is called a ____________________.
2. The cover of The New England Psalm-Singer was engraved by ____________________.
3. What was the “fight song” of the New England Regiments during the American Revolutionary War?
4. Who was inaugurated President of the U.S. during the last few years of Billings’ life?
Jacques Offenbach was a popular composer of Opera Comique (light, comic opera) in nineteenth century Paris, France. Written during the Romantic period, these comic operas generally had spoken dialogue between the songs, similar to what we have now in Broadway musicals. Comic operas of this type are sometimes called operettas. Offenbach was born in Cologne, studied at the Paris Conservatory, and played the cello. He then became a theater conductor, later getting his own operas produced.

Two of Offenbach’s most popular operas are Helen the Beautiful and Orpheus in the Underworld which contains the famous Can-Can.

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**1819**  Birth of Jacques Offenbach, Florida purchased by U.S. from Spain

**1822**  Franz Liszt (at age 11) makes his debut as a pianist in Vienna, Austria

**1834**  The bestselling book of the year is Victor Hugo’s Hunchback of Notre Dame

**1844**  Samuel Morse invents the telegraph, messages sent between Baltimore and Washington D.C.

**1849**  Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery, works with the “Underground Railroad”

**1860**  Étienne Lenoir develops first internal combustion engine

**1871**  British Columbia becomes the sixth Canadian province

**1874**  Brahms composes Hungarian Dances

**1880**  Auguste Rodin completes famous sculpture The Thinker

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**Questions**

1. True or False: The nineteenth century includes the years 1900–1999.

2. What often happens between the songs of a comic opera?

3. The famous music Can-Can is from which Offenbach opera?

4. Name a famous book published during Offenbach’s lifetime.
GIOACCHINO ROSSINI
1792–1868

Gioacchino Rossini was born in Pesaro, Italy and studied music in Bologna, where he learned to play the French Horn and sang in operas. By the age of 21, he had already composed 12 operas which were being performed in many of the major opera houses of Italy. Rossini composed a total of 39 operas, many of which are still performed regularly all over the world.

During this time in history, long before the invention of radio, movies or television, going to see an opera was a very popular form of entertainment. Rossini was clearly the most popular composer of opera during the Classical period in Italy. His most famous operas include The Barber of Seville (1816), The Thieving Magpie (1817), and William Tell (1829). At the age of 37 he retired from writing operas, and composed mostly religious choral music during the rest of his life. Rossini was also known as a gourmet, and developed a classic recipe ("tournedos Rossini") which is still used in some restaurants today.

1792 Birth of Gioacchino Rossini, architect James Hogan begins work on the White House, Washington, D.C.
1799 Beethoven composes Symphony #1 in C Major
1815 Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm publish their collection of fairy tales
1827 Alexander Dumas writes The Three Musketeers
1840 Birth of three famous French artists: Monet, Renoir and Rodin
1853 Henry Steinway and his three sons begin the N.Y. firm of piano manufacturers
1861 Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as 16th President of U.S.
1868 Brahms composes German Requiem, Opus 45

QUESTIONS

1. Unscramble the letters to find where Rossini studied music in Italy - A L O G N O B

2. Add the number of operas Rossini composed by the age of 21, with his age at the time he stopped writing operas, and the sum will be ________________.

3. Name two of Rossini's famous operas.

4. Name one French artist who was born during Rossini's lifetime.
Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany into a family that had a tradition of producing great musicians. He became an orphan at age 10 and was raised by his older brother who was an organist. An accomplished violinist, Bach became more well-known as a church organist. In addition to being one of the greatest composers, Bach had 20 children, many of whom became musicians and composers themselves.

One of the most important Baroque composers, Bach wrote an enormous amount of music for organ, harpsichord, orchestra and chorus. Some of Bach's best known works include the Brandenburg Concertos for Orchestra (1721), St. Matthew Passion for chorus and orchestra (1729) and The Well Tempered Clavier (keyboard work including preludes and fugues in all twelve major and minor keys).

- **1685** Birth of Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel
- **1704** “Boston News Letter” first newspaper in America
- **1709** Invention of the piano by Italian Bartolomeo Cristofori
- **1714** D. G. Fahrenheit constructs mercury thermometer with temperature scale
- **1718** Yale University (formerly Collegiate School of America) moves to New Haven, Connecticut
- **1731** Benjamin Franklin founds a subscription library in Philadelphia, PA
- **1734** First horse race in America at Charleston, South Carolina
- **1741** Handel writes The Messiah, an oratorio composed in 18 days
- **1750** The minuet becomes Europe’s fashionable dance

### Questions

1. J.S. Bach played the violin and the _________________.

2. If you sang in an adult chorus you might sing a piece Bach wrote in 1729 called _________________.

3. True or False: The keyboard work that includes preludes and fugues in all twelve major and minor keys is called The Well Tempered Clavier.

4. The piano was invented in the year _________________.

GIUSEPPE VERDI
1813–1901

Giuseppe Verdi was one of the most famous composers of opera during the Romantic period. He was born in a small village in Northern Italy and was a talented organist, playing in churches at the age of 11. He wanted to study music at the Milan Conservatory but was refused admission, so he took private lessons instead. His third opera, *Nabucco*, established his fame as a composer. Verdi's operas are frequently performed in all the famous opera houses worldwide.

Verdi chose a number of interesting subjects for his operas. *Aida* (1872) takes place in Egypt and is sometimes performed with live animals, including elephants, on stage. *La Traviata* (1853) is set in Paris, France. *Othello* and *Falstaff* are based on William Shakespeare plays. Verdi's operas often had political themes, and Verdi himself was active in politics, eventually being elected senator.

- **1813** Birth of Giuseppe Verdi, James Madison begins second term as President of U.S.
- **1825** World's first passenger train system opens in England
- **1836** Davy Crockett, American frontiersman and politician killed at the Alamo (Texas)
- **1839** Abner Doubleday conducts the first baseball game. (Cooperstown, N.Y.)
- **1847** Gold discoveries in California lead to gold rush
- **1863** President Lincoln delivers "The Gettysburg Address"
- **1879** Thomas Edison invents the electric lightbulb
- **1884** Johannes Brahms composes *Symphony #3 in F Major*
- **1901** Marconi transmits radio messages from Cornwall, England to Newfoundland, Canada

**QUESTIONS**

1. True or False: Verdi was composing music during the Baroque period.
2. What kind of music did Verdi compose?
3. When Verdi was young, what instrument did he play?
4. Name a modern convenience that was invented when Verdi was over 60 years old.
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
1770–1827

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. He studied the violin and piano as a child, becoming a virtuoso pianist. At age 22, he moved to Vienna to study composition with Haydn. By his late twenties, Beethoven began to go deaf. He eventually became completely deaf but continued to compose wonderful, creative music throughout his life. Before Beethoven, most composers worked as employees of wealthy people or churches. Beethoven was probably the first composer to make his living entirely by performances and publication of his music.

The nine symphonies of Beethoven are probably his greatest achievement but he also wrote many solo sonatas and concertos, string quartets and the opera Fidelio (1805). Although Beethoven's music was written during the Classical period, he is often credited with being the musical bridge to the Romantic period. Many later composers looked to Beethoven as their source of inspiration.

— 1770  Birth of Ludwig van Beethoven
— 1775  George Washington made commander-in-chief at the start of the American Revolutionary War
— 1790  Washington, D.C. founded
— 1799  Haydn composes The Creation, an oratorio
— 1800  Napoleon and his French army defeats Austrians and conquers Italy.
— 1805  Thomas Jefferson begins second term as President of U.S.
— 1812  U.S. declares war on Britain (referred to as War of 1812)
— 1818  Franz Gruber, an Austrian school teacher, composes famous Christmas carol Silent Night
— 1827  American Dictionary of the English Language by Noah Webster is published

QUESTIONS

1. The musical instrument Beethoven was best at playing was the _________________.

2. Unscramble the letters to find the name of the famous composer with whom Beethoven studied - H A N D Y

3. True or False: When Beethoven became completely deaf, he stopped composing music.

4. Who was President of the U.S. when Beethoven composed the opera Fidelio?
ANTONIN DVOŘÁK
1841–1904

Antonín Dvořák was born in a small village near Prague in the Czech Republic. He moved to the city of Prague when he was 16 and played viola in the orchestra of the Czech National Theater. His composing attracted the attention of Brahms, who helped Dvořák get his music published. Dvořák’s compositions show the strong influence of Czech folk music. He taught briefly at the Prague Conservatory, then lived in New York City from 1892 to 1895, where he was the Director of the National Conservatory of Music.

Writing during the Romantic Period, Dvořák composed nine symphonies, several solo concertos, 14 string quartets and several large choral works. His best-known work is the Symphony From the New World (1893), written during his three-year stay in America. In this symphony he combines elements of the traditional romantic symphony with African-American spirituals.

1841 Birth of Antonín Dvořák

1845 Texas and Florida become states of the U.S.

1855 Florence Nightingale introduces hygienic standards into military hospitals

1860 During the last 10 years, 424,000 people emigrated from England and 914,000 from Ireland to the U.S.

1865 Lewis Carroll writes Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland

1870 Manitoba becomes a Canadian province

1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1893 Henry Ford builds his first car

1904 N.Y. policeman arrests a woman for smoking in public

QUESTIONS

1. What instrument did Dvořák play?

2. When Henry Ford built his first car, what symphony did Dvořák write?

3. In what period of music did Dvořák write?

4. True or False: Elements of the African-American spiritual were evident in Dvořák’s Symphony From the New World.
Engelbert Humperdinck was born near Bonn, Germany, the city in which Ludwig van Beethoven was born. As a young boy he was a choirboy at the local cathedral and won several prizes which made it possible for him to study music in the German cities of Cologne and Munich. Humperdinck was greatly influenced by the operas composed by Richard Wagner, and in fact helped Wagner with the production of his opera Parsifal.

Hansel and Gretel. Humperdinck's famous opera, was written and produced in 1893. Written in the late Romantic style, this children's opera also includes several German folk songs. He composed other operas and also wrote incidental music to plays by William Shakespeare.

1854 Birth of Engelbert Humperdinck

1858 The New York Symphony Orchestra gives its first public concert

1864 In God We Trust first appears on U.S. coins

1873 Germany adopts the mark as its unit of currency

1893 Grover Cleveland becomes U.S. President for the second time

1901 Australia becomes an independent nation

1902 Beatrix Potter writes Peter Rabbit children's stories

1912 The ship S.S. "Titanic" sinks on her maiden voyage after colliding with an iceberg

1921 The Nobel Prize for Physics goes to Albert Einstein for his discovery of photoelectric effect

Questions

1. True or False: Engelbert Humperdinck and Ludwig van Beethoven were both born in Oslo, Norway.

2. Hansel and Gretel was written and produced the same year that Grover Cleveland became President of the U.S. for the second time. What year was it?

3. The opera Hansel and Gretel includes several German_________________________ songs.

4. Name the author of the Peter Rabbit children’s stories that were written during Humperdinck's lifetime.
George Frederick Handel 1685–1759

George Frederick Handel was born in Halle, Germany. After spending some time in Italy learning to write Italian opera, he moved to England in his twenties, and eventually became an English citizen. It's interesting to note that Handel was born the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach, another famous Baroque composer. Handel was a virtuoso on both the organ and harpsichord, and continued to perform concerts even after going blind in later life.

Handel composed 46 operas, several orchestral suites, many sonatas for solo instruments and 32 oratorios. An oratorio is a piece of music for chorus, vocal soloists and orchestra, with a text usually taken from the Bible. Handel's most famous oratorio is Messiah, which includes the well-known Hallelujah Chorus. Hail, the Conquering Hero is from the oratorio Judas Maccabeus.

- **1685** Birth of George Frederick Handel
- **1688** Plate glass is used for the first time
- **1702** Earliest form of pantomime given at Drury Lane (Theater), London, England
- **1711** Clarinet used for the first time in an orchestra
- **1717** Handel's Water Music first performed on the Thames River, London
- **1721** J.S. Bach composes his Brandenburg Concertos
- **1732** Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac first issued
- **1741** Handel composes Messiah in 18 days
- **1759** British gain Quebec from France

**Questions**

1. True or False: Although Handel was born in Germany, he went on to become a French citizen.

2. What other famous Baroque composer was born in the same year as Handel?

3. Unscramble the letters to find the name of a piece of music for chorus, vocal soloists and orchestra with a text usually taken from the Bible - OTRAIRROO

4. In what year was the clarinet first heard in an orchestra?
Jeremiah Clarke was born in London, England and sang at the coronation of King James II, when he was only 11 years old. He became a well-known organist, playing for several years at London’s famous St. Paul’s Cathedral.

Although Clarke was mainly a composer of choral music for the cathedral choir, his best-known work is Trumpet Voluntary, sometimes referred to as the Prince of Denmark’s March. In its original version, this was probably an organ solo. It was later arranged for trumpet and organ and then for string orchestra and trumpet. For many years, Trumpet Voluntary was wrongly thought to have been written by Henry Purcell, another famous English composer who lived at the same time as Clarke.

1674  Birth of Jeremiah Clarke
1675  Sir Christopher Wren, famous English architect, begins rebuilding St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, England
1680  Tsunayoshi becomes Shogun of Japan
1683  Isaac Newton explains his mathematical theory on tides which are under the pull of gravity of the sun, moon and earth
1685  First French settlers in Texas
1698  Paper manufacturing begins in North America
1704  Johann Sebastian Bach, famous German composer, composes his first cantata
1707  England and Scotland united as Great Britain

Questions

1. Unscramble the letters to find the country where Jeremiah Clarke was born - GANNELD

2. Clarke was an ____________ at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, England.

3. Clarke’s best known work is ____________________________________________.

4. Name another famous composer who lived during Clarke’s lifetime.
Jean Sibelius
1865–1957

Jean Sibelius is certainly Finland’s most well-known composer. Like Grieg, Sibelius wrote during the Romantic Period and is considered a nationalistic composer. He didn’t use Finnish folk tunes directly in his music, but he was inspired and greatly influenced by Finnish literature and folklore. Sibelius wrote many pieces of music, including symphonies, suites, vocal music, and tone poems, which are one-movement compositions that often suggest a story or mood.

*Finlandia*, a tone poem, is Sibelius’ most famous work. It aroused great feelings of patriotism among his countrymen, which resulted in Sibelius being granted a pension from the Finnish government, allowing him to compose full-time. The main theme from this composition was chosen to be the National Anthem of Finland.

1865 Birth of Jean Sibelius, 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishes slavery

1867 Russia sells Alaska to U.S.

1871 P.T. Barnum opens his circus *The Greatest Show on Earth* in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1882 Robert Louis Stevenson writes *Treasure Island*

1904 The Spanish-born artist Picasso arrives in Paris and begins his Rose Period

1908 Wilbur Wright flies 30 miles in 40 minutes

1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt inaugurated as 32nd President of the U.S.

1949 The most popular song of the year—*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

1957 Dr. Seuss writes *The Cat in the Hat*

QUESTIONS

1. Jean Sibelius was born in what country?

2. A one movement composition which often suggests a story or mood is called a ____________________________.

3. What is the title of the tone poem that includes the National Anthem of Finland?

4. Unscramble the letters to find the name of the famous artist who was painting during Sibelius’ lifetime. - SOAPSIC
Reinhold Gliere was born in the city of Kiev, Ukraine and studied music at the Moscow Conservatory in the former Soviet Union. From 1920 to 1941 he taught composition at the same conservatory. Gliere was also active in the study and use of folk music in his compositions. Although most of Gliere’s music was written in the twentieth century, his style is more closely connected to the late Romantic period.

Gliere’s most famous work is *The Red Poppy*, a ballet in three acts. First performed in 1927, this colorful ballet tells the story of a Soviet sailing crew that lands in China and encourages the Chinese peasants to rise up against their feudal lords. The *Russian Sailor’s Dance* is from this ballet. Ballet, the dancing of a story set to music, is an important art form in many parts of the world. Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* is another famous ballet.

- **1875** Birth of Reinhold Gliere, Mark Twain writes *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- **1889** North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington become states of the U.S.
- **1893** Dvořák composes his *New World Symphony*
- **1901** Pablo Picasso is painting in his “Blue Period”
- **1915** First transcontinental telephone call between Alexander Graham Bell in New York and Dr. Thomas Watson in San Francisco
- **1927** The baseball player, Babe Ruth hits 60 home runs for the New York Yankees
- **1937** Walt Disney produces the film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*
- **1943** The drug Penicillin is successfully used to treat diseases
- **1956** Martin Luther King is the leader of the campaign for desegregation in the U.S.

**Questions**

1. True or False. Gliere not only was a student, but later taught composition at the Moscow Conservatory.

2. Gliere’s most famous composition is the ballet ____________________________

3. This ballet was written in 1927, the same year that ____________________________ hit 60 home runs.

4. At the end of Gliere’s life, what famous man was leading the campaign for desegregation in the U.S.?
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
1840–1893

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Russia. His father was a mine inspector who encouraged him to study to become a lawyer. After graduating from law school and working awhile for the government, Tchaikovsky studied piano and composition at the St. Petersburg Conservatory with Anton Rubinstein. He was such a superior student that after graduating from the conservatory, he became Professor of Harmony at the Moscow Conservatory for 12 years.

Tchaikovsky’s six symphonies are among the most well-known and performed works of the Romantic period. In addition, he wrote the music for three ballets, Swan Lake (1876), The Sleeping Beauty (1889), and the ever popular Nutcracker (1892). In 1891, Tchaikovsky was invited to come to America to take part in the concert that marked the opening of Carnegie Hall in New York City.

1840 Birth of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Lower and Upper Canada united by Act of Parliament
1846 Famine in Ireland caused by failure of the potato crop
1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe writes Uncle Tom’s Cabin
1855 Van Diemen’s Land is renamed Tasmania (Australia)
1863 Roller skating introduced to America
1879 First large scale skiing contest in Oslo, Norway
1883 U.S. Frontiersman, W.J. Cody (“Buffalo Bill”) organizes his “Wild West Show”
1889 Paris: The Eiffel Tower is completed
1893 Tchaikovsky composes Symphony #6 Pathetique

Questions
1. What instrument did Tchaikovsky play?
2. What job did Tchaikovsky have during his twelve years at the Moscow Conservatory?
3. The Eiffel tower was completed and Tchaikovsky composed The Sleeping Beauty ballet during what year?
4. True or False: Tchaikovsky wrote twelve symphonies.
Edward Elgar
1857–1934

Edward Elgar is an English composer who wrote a number of well-known and frequently performed compositions towards the latter part of the Romantic period. He had a few violin lessons, but was largely self-taught, learning a lot by hanging around his father’s music store. Starting at age 16, Elgar worked as a conductor, teacher, and performer on violin, bassoon, and organ. He started composing around this time, but his most famous works were not written until he was over 40 years old.

The famous Pomp and Circumstance that is often played at high school graduations is one of several Pomp and Circumstance marches he composed between 1901 and 1907. Elgar’s most famous orchestral work is Enigma Variations (1899). Each variation of the Enigma Variations musically describes one of Elgar’s friends. Elgar’s music has a distinctively British sound, and because of his musical contributions he was knighted, and so is commonly referred to as Sir Edward Elgar.

1857 Birth of Edward Elgar, James Buchanan becomes 15th President of the U.S.
1864 Gen. Ulysses S. Grant becomes Commander-in-Chief of Union armies, during the U.S. Civil War
1874 First American zoo established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1880 The game of Bingo is developed from the Italian lotto game of Tumbula
1891 Conan Doyle writes The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
1901 Ragtime Jazz develops in the U.S.
1914 World War I begins
1927 Australian federal capital is moved from Melbourne to Canberra
1936 Boulder (Hoover) Dam on the Colorado River in Nevada and Arizona, is completed, creating Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the world.

Questions

1. True or False: Edward Elgar composed during the Romantic period of music.

2. The Pomp and Circumstance marches were composed between _________ and _________.

3. Who was President of the U.S. at the time of Elgar’s birth?

4. When Elgar began composing his Pomp and Circumstance Marches in 1901, what other form of music was developing in the U.S.?
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA
1854–1932

John Philip Sousa is often referred to as “The March King,” since he wrote some of the most famous marches ever. He served as the Director of the United States Marine Band in Washington D.C. from 1880-1892. He later organized his own professional band which toured the United States, Canada and Europe until 1931. Sousa was a master showman, whose concerts successfully blended classics, popular tunes, opera medleys, and marches to produce a crowd-pleasing spectacle that changed the American musical scene at the turn of the century.

Sousa’s marches are known and loved worldwide. Some of Sousa’s most famous marches are Semper Fidelis, Manhattan Beach, The Thunderer, and the Stars and Stripes Forever. He also wrote a lot of vocal music, including some operettas. Stars and Stripes Forever was recently declared the official U.S. National March.

1854 Birth of John Philip Sousa
1864 Tolstoy writes War and Peace
1873 Color photographs are first developed
1882 Tchaikovsky composes 1812 Overture
1895 First professional football game played in U.S. at Latrobe, Pennsylvania
1901 Following a “century of steam” the “century of electricity” begins
1910 Father’s Day is first celebrated in Spokane, Washington
1920 Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, gives American women the vote
1931 Statute of Westminster passes, Canada becomes independent.

QUESTIONS

1. John Philip Sousa wrote many great marches and was often referred to as ____________________.

2. What was Sousa’s job between 1880 and 1892?

3. True or False: Sousa conducted and toured with his own professional quartet.

4. Toward the end of Sousa’s life, what country became independent?