

The Maestro's Masterclass: A Musical Journey

Learning objective: To identify key historical composers and recognise their contributions to musical notation, structure, and style.

Join Max the monkey as he explores the mathematical patterns in music history. Read the questions carefully and test your knowledge of the masters who shaped the world of sound.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Ludwig van Beethoven, 5.B, 6.True, 7.Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 8.A, 9.False, 10.Baroque. Max's Thinking Tip: Remember that composers were the architects of sound, using maths to balance melody and rhythm!

Word bank: Baroque · Orchestra · Symphony · Notation · Concerto · Pitch · Tempo · Classical

1. 1. Which era of music is known for elaborate decoration and the work of J.S. Bach? A) Modern, B) Romantic, C) Baroque*, D) Jazz (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Musical notation is a system used to write down music so that it can be performed by others. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: A symphony is a short piece of music typically written for only one instrument. (1 mark)

4. 4. Who is the famous German composer who continued to write incredible music even after losing his hearing? (One-word/Name answer) (1 mark)

5. 5. Which child prodigy composed his first pieces of music at the age of five? A) Antonio Vivaldi, B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*, C) Franz Schubert, D) Gustav Holst (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: 'Tempo' refers to the speed at which a piece of music is played. (1 mark)

7. 7. Identify the composer who wrote 'The Marriage of Figaro'. (One-word/Name answer) (1 mark)

8. 8. What do we call a large group of musicians playing different instruments together? A) Orchestra*, B) Solo, C) Quartet, D) Choir (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: All composers in history have used electronic synthesisers to create their masterpieces. (1 mark)

10. 10. In which musical period would you most likely find the use of a harpsichord? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a musical time machine. Show how the instruments used in the Baroque period differ from the instruments you might see in a modern orchestra.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why composers during the Classical period prioritised balance and structure in their music. 2. Compare and contrast the life of a child prodigy composer with a modern-day musician. 3. Justify your answer: Does music notation limit creativity, or does it help musicians collaborate more effectively? 4. What might happen if composers did not use a standard system of notation? 5. Research a female composer from history (such as Clara Schumann) and write a short paragraph about her impact. 6. Compose a 4-bar rhythm pattern and explain the mathematical fraction of time each note occupies in your bar.