

Composer Fact-File: A Musical Journey with Max

Learning objective: To research and analyse the life, style, and historical context of a significant composer, identifying the impact of their work on musical history.

Choose a famous composer from history. Use your library or school resources to research their life and work. Fill in the sections below to create a detailed fact-file. Max the monkey is looking for mathematical patterns in the music, so be sure to mention the tempo and time signatures if you can find them!

Word bank: Orchestra · Symphony · Concerto · Tempo · Rhythm · Melody · Baroque · Classical · Romantic · Composition

1. Composer Profile: Provide the name, years of birth and death, and the country of origin. Explain why this composer is considered significant in musical history. (3 marks)

2. Musical Style: Describe the 'sound' of their music. What instruments are prominent? How would you describe the mood or texture of their most famous piece? (3 marks)

3. Historical Context: Compare and contrast the era in which they lived with today. How did the society or technology of the time influence the way they composed music? (4 marks)

4. Mathematical Patterns: Max has noticed that music often relies on mathematical structure. Identify the time signature or rhythmic patterns used in one of their works. Justify why these patterns are important to the piece. (4 marks)

5. Critical Reflection: Explain why this composer's work has stood the test of time. What might happen to the world of classical music if this composer had never lived? (5 marks)

6. Personal Connection: If you were to compose a piece of music based on your own life today, which instruments would you choose to represent your personality and why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist in the time of your chosen composer. Write a short, formal review of the premiere of one of their major works. Use sophisticated vocabulary to describe the emotional response of the audience and the technical skill displayed by the musicians.