

Composer's Handout, Part 1

By Maggie Hogan

Schumann (SHOE-mahn) 1810-1856

Listen to:

- Scenes from Childhood
- Carnival
- Symphony no. 2 in C major

Brahms 1833-1897

Listen to:

- All four symphonies
- Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn

Dvorak – (da-VOR-zhak) 1841-1904

Listen to:

- Slavonic Dances
- Symphony No. 9 in E Minor (“From the New World”)

Tchaikovsky (chai-KOFF0skee) 1840-1893

Listen to:

- Romeo and Juliet
- Nutcracker
- Swan Lake
- 1812 Overture – has cannons in it! Really!

Strauss 1864-1949

Listen to:

- Tell Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks
- Death and Transfiguration

20th Century/Contemporary Era:

Debussy (de-bu-SEE) 1862-1918

Listen to:

- Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
- La Mer

Stravinsky (stra-VIN-skee) 1882-1971

Most famous for:

- Firebird
- The Rite of Spring

Aaron Copland (KOPE-land) 1900-1990

Listen to:

- Appalachian Spring
- Fanfare for the Common Man
- Billy the Kid

George Gershwin 1898-1937

Listen to:

- Rhapsody in Blue
- Porgy and Bess

Recommended Books:

- *Classical Music for Dummies* by Pogue and Speck
- *The Story of the Orchestra* by Robert Levine
- *Sebastian Bach, The Boy from Thuringia* by Opal Wheeler
- *Mozart, The Wonder Boy* by Opal Wheeler
- New in 2006! *Composers through History: A Young Christian's Guide to Famous People* by Maggie Hogan & Melissa Craig

Then:

- Make a timeline.
- Put each composer on it, along with his lifespan.
- Take a pencil in another color and draw lines that connect composers who knew each other or had relationships.
- Place them on a map—note what countries they're from.

Fill out a card for each composer include:

- Name
- Musical era
- Dates
- 3 interesting facts
- 2 famous compositions

Now: See, Say, Stack!

