

Classical Composers Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Classical Composers trivia invites you to explore the lives, music, and lasting influence of figures such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky. Spanning centuries of musical history, it highlights the personalities, premieres, rivalries, and masterpieces that helped define the classical tradition. Whether you are a casual listener or a devoted concertgoer, it offers a lively way to revisit familiar names and discover surprising facts.

HARD CLASSICAL COMPOSERS TRIVIA

1. In which year did Beethoven write the document known as the Heiligenstadt Testament?
Answer: 1802
2. Which composer is linked to the nickname "Symphony of a Thousand" for Symphony No. 8?
Answer: Gustav Mahler
3. Whose work "Prometheus" includes a part written for color keyboard?
Answer: Alexander Scriabin
4. Béla Bartók's "Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta" premiered in what year?
Answer: 1937
5. Olivier Messiaen composed "Quartet for the End of Time" under what circumstance?
Answer: In a prisoner-of-war camp
6. The eerie vocal delivery in Schoenberg's "Pierrot lunaire" is known by what term?
Answer: Sprechstimme
7. Alban Berg's opera "Wozzeck" is based on which play by Büchner?
Answer: Woyzeck
8. How many instruments are used in Webern's Symphony, Op. 21?
Answer: Nine instruments
9. Charles Ives composed "The Unanswered Question" in which year?
Answer: 1908
10. Janáček's "Glagolitic Mass" sets text in what liturgical language?
Answer: Old Church Slavonic
11. In which city did Carl Orff's cantata "Carmina Burana" premiere in 1937?
Answer: Frankfurt
12. Which Ligeti piece was used in Stanley Kubrick's film "2001: A Space Odyssey"?
Answer: Atmosphères
13. Penderecki's "Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima" is scored for how many string instruments?

Answer: 52 string instruments

14. Arcangelo Corelli's Opus 6 consists of how many concerti grossi?

Answer: 12

FUNNY CLASSICAL COMPOSERS TRIVIA

1. Which composer gave the piano world the gloriously odd title "Embryons desséchés" ("Desiccated Embryos")?

Answer: Erik Satie

2. True or false: "Desiccated Embryos" was the title of a piano set by Erik Satie.?

Answer: True

3. If a concert program suddenly announces "Desiccated Embryos," which composer is responsible for that eyebrow-raising title?

Answer: Erik Satie

4. Which composer wrote the memorably specific piece "Funeral March on the Death of a Parrot"?

Answer: Charles-Valentin Alkan

5. A parrot gets a funeral march. Which composer wrote it?

Answer: Charles-Valentin Alkan

6. Who composed "A Musical Sleigh Ride," proving that winter outings existed before movie soundtracks?

Answer: Leopold Mozart

7. Which Mozart wrote "A Musical Sleigh Ride" — not the superstar son, but the father?

Answer: Leopold Mozart

8. Which composer wrote the comic opera "Pimpinone"?

Answer: Georg Philipp Telemann

9. If the opera title is "Pimpinone," which composer should get the credit?

Answer: Georg Philipp Telemann

10. Which so-called composer was actually fictional, the invention of Peter Schickele?

Answer: PDQ Bach

11. Peter Schickele created a fictional composer. What was the name of that impossible musical relative?

Answer: PDQ Bach

12. Which composer's "Sabre Dance" escaped the concert hall and became famous just about everywhere?

Answer: Aram Khachaturian

13. The hyper-energetic "Sabre Dance" belongs to which composer?

Answer: Aram Khachaturian

FUN CLASSICAL COMPOSERS TRIVIA

1. Which composer turned a single tune into a slow-building earworm with the extended crescendo of "Boléro"?

Answer: Maurice Ravel

2. If a concert piece seems to say, "What if we just keep the same melody and make it louder?," which work is it likely to be?

Answer: "Boléro"

3. Who composed the programmatic showpiece "Symphonie fantastique"?

Answer: Hector Berlioz

4. Which title in this set is explicitly identified as a programmatic work by Berlioz?

Answer: "Symphonie fantastique"

5. Whose musical imagination gave us the programmatic ride called "Symphonie fantastique"?

Answer: Hector Berlioz

6. In what city is Bizet's opera "Carmen" set?

Answer: Seville

7. Which composer wrote the opera that unfolds in Seville and is titled "Carmen"?

Answer: Georges Bizet

8. If someone tells you "Carmen" takes place in Seville, which opera are they talking about?

Answer: "Carmen"

9. Who composed the opera that contains the "Polovtsian Dances"?

Answer: Alexander Borodin

10. The "Polovtsian Dances" don't wander in from nowhere—they belong to which Borodin opera?

Answer: "Prince Igor"

11. Which composer sent Orpheus on a comic trip below with the operetta "Orpheus in the Underworld"?

Answer: Jacques Offenbach

12. What is the title of Offenbach's operetta mentioned here?

Answer: "Orpheus in the Underworld"

13. True or false: "Orpheus in the Underworld" is listed here as an operetta by Jacques Offenbach.?

Answer: True

CLASSICAL COMPOSERS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which composer was the older sister of Felix Mendelssohn?

Answer: Fanny Mendelssohn

2. True or false: Fanny Mendelssohn was younger than Felix Mendelssohn.?

Answer: False

3. In which Italian city was Rossini born in 1792?

Answer: Pesaro, Italy

4. Playful one: If you mailed a birthday card to Rossini's birthplace, which city would go on the envelope?

Answer: Pesaro, Italy

5. Besides composing, Anton Bruckner was also known for playing which instrument professionally?

Answer: Organ

6. Which composer is described in this fact as also being a notable organist?

Answer: Anton Bruckner

7. What city became an important base of Franz Liszt's career?

Answer: Weimar

8. Which composer's career is especially linked here with Weimar?

Answer: Franz Liszt

9. La Scala opera house is located in which city?

Answer: Milan

10. If someone says they are going to La Scala tonight, which city are they in?

Answer: Milan

11. Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" belongs to what kind of composition?

Answer: A piano sonata

12. True or false: Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" is an opera.?

Answer: False

EASY CLASSICAL COMPOSERS TRIVIA

1. Which composer was born in Bonn in 1770?

Answer: Ludwig van Beethoven

2. Born in Salzburg in 1756, which famous composer was this?

Answer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3. Who composed the six Brandenburg Concertos?

Answer: Johann Sebastian Bach

4. Which composer was nicknamed "The Red Priest"?

Answer: Antonio Vivaldi

5. Most of Fr^'d^'ric Chopin's major works were written for what instrument?

Answer: Piano

6. Who composed the opera "Aida"?

Answer: Giuseppe Verdi

7. Which composer wrote the opera "La Boh^'me"?

Answer: Giacomo Puccini

8. Who composed the ballet "Swan Lake"?

Answer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

9. Which composer created the waltz "The Blue Danube"?

Answer: Johann Strauss II

10. Who wrote the piano piece "Clair de lune"?

Answer: Claude Debussy

11. Which composer is linked with the oratorio "Messiah"?

Answer: George Frideric Handel

12. Who is often called the "Father of the Symphony"?

Answer: Joseph Haydn

13. Which composer wrote "Ave Maria"?

Answer: Franz Schubert

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/classical-composers>