

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

Classical Music trivia invites you into a tradition that stretches from the Baroque and Classical eras through the Romantic period and beyond. Expect factual, family-friendly questions that range from recognizable melodies and famous composers to deeper cuts about musical forms, premieres, and performance history.

HARD CLASSICAL MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Schoenberg's "Pierrot lunaire" premiered in what year?

Answer: 1912

2. Twelve-tone serialism emerged in which broad period?

Answer: the early 20th century

3. Berg's opera "Wozzeck" premiered in which city in 1925?

Answer: Berlin

4. What is the opus number of Webern's "Six Bagatelles for String Quartet"?

Answer: Op. 9

5. Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time" received its premiere in what kind of place in 1941?

Answer: a German prisoner-of-war camp

6. How many numbered symphonies did Mahler complete?

Answer: 9

7. Monteverdi's "L'Orfeo" premiered in which city in 1607?

Answer: Mantua

8. Pergolesi completed "Stabat Mater" in what year?

Answer: 1736

9. How many concerti grossi are in Corelli's Op. 6 set?

Answer: 12

10. About how many keyboard sonatas did Domenico Scarlatti write?

Answer: more than 550

11. Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique" premiered in which city in 1830?

Answer: Paris

12. Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor is unusual because it is in how many movements?

Answer: one

13. Smetana's string quartet "From My Life" is in what key?

Answer: E minor

14. Janáček's "Sinfonietta" premiered in which city in 1926?

Answer: Prague

FUNNY CLASSICAL MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Which symphony earns the nickname "Surprise" because of a sudden loud chord in the slow movement?

Answer: Haydn's Surprise Symphony

2. What is the commonly used nickname of Mozart's bawdy canon mentioned in trivia books?

Answer: Leck mich im Arsch

3. If someone jokingly credits Rossini with a "Cat Duet," which genuinely famous comic opera of his is the solid answer instead?

Answer: The Barber of Seville

4. What traditional title is attached to the toy-filled piece often linked, disputably, with Leopold Mozart?

Answer: Toy Symphony

5. In Mozart's "The Magic Flute," what is the name of the bird catcher?

Answer: Papageno

6. Which movement from "The Carnival of the Animals" sneaks in a can-can parody at tortoise speed?

Answer: Tortoises

7. Rossini gave the title "Catastrophe" to a piano miniature in which collection?

Answer: P'ch's de vieillesse

8. Which composer wrote "Three Pieces in the Shape of a Pear"?

Answer: Erik Satie

9. What is the title of Satie's piece with office-worker energy: "Bureaucratic Sonatina" or "Moonlight Sonata"?

Answer: Bureaucratic Sonatina

10. The barber at the center of "The Barber of Seville" has what name?

Answer: Figaro

11. In Prokofiev's animal tale, which instrument quacks the duck part?

Answer: oboe

12. Which instrument imitates the cuckoo in Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals"?

Answer: clarinet

13. Mozart's "Ein musikalischer Spaß" wraps up with what kind of ending on purpose?

Answer: deliberately clashing parts

FUN CLASSICAL MUSIC TRIVIA

1. What tiny musical idea kicks off Beethoven's Symphony No. 5?

Answer: a four-note motif

2. Which work is famous for using cannon fire in performance?

Answer: 1812 Overture

3. Ravel's "Boléro" rides on the repeated pattern of which percussion instrument?

Answer: snare drum

4. In Saint-Saëns' "The Swan," which solo string instrument sings the main line?

Answer: cello

5. The "Hallelujah" chorus appears in which Handel work?

Answer: Messiah

6. Verdi's opera "Aida" is set in what ancient civilization?

Answer: ancient Egypt

7. What Japanese city is the setting of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly"?

Answer: Nagasaki

8. Who composed the famous Violin Concerto in D minor?

Answer: Jean Sibelius

9. In which city did Stravinsky's ballet "The Firebird" premiere in 1910?

Answer: Paris

10. Which American composer wrote the ballet "Appalachian Spring"?

Answer: Aaron Copland

11. Bizet's opera "Carmen" takes place in which Spanish city?

Answer: Seville

12. In "Peter and the Wolf," which instrument represents the bird?

Answer: flute

13. How many violin concertos make up Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons"?

Answer: four

CLASSICAL MUSIC FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who is often nicknamed the "Father of the Symphony"?

Answer: Joseph Haydn

2. Which composer created the lively "Hungarian Dances"?

Answer: Johannes Brahms

3. The famous "Wedding March" was composed by whom?

Answer: Felix Mendelssohn

4. "Water Music" is a work by which composer?

Answer: George Frideric Handel

5. Who composed "Carmina Burana"?

Answer: Carl Orff

6. Before it was widely known in orchestral form, "Pictures at an Exhibition" was originally written for what?

Answer: solo piano

7. Which composer wrote the ballet "The Nutcracker"?

Answer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

8. Which composer is closely linked with musical Impressionism?

Answer: Claude Debussy

9. What opera house did Richard Wagner design for his own operas?

Answer: Bayreuth Festspielhaus

10. Which American orchestra was founded in 1842?

Answer: New York Philharmonic

11. Founded in 1881, which orchestra fits that date?

Answer: Boston Symphony Orchestra

12. In which city is the opera house Teatro La Fenice found?

Answer: Venice

EASY CLASSICAL MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Which composer was born in Bonn in 1770?

Answer: Ludwig van Beethoven

2. Salzburg was the birthplace of which composer in 1756?

Answer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3. Who served in Leipzig as Thomaskantor?

Answer: Johann Sebastian Bach

4. "The Four Seasons" was composed by whom?

Answer: Antonio Vivaldi

5. Who wrote the waltz commonly known as "The Blue Danube"?

Answer: Johann Strauss II

6. Which composer created the opera "The Barber of Seville"?

Answer: Gioachino Rossini

7. Who composed the opera "La Bohème"?

Answer: Giacomo Puccini

8. Which famous Italian composer is especially known for opera: Giuseppe Verdi or Claude Debussy?

Answer: Giuseppe Verdi

9. Who wrote Symphony No. 9, subtitled "From the New World"?

Answer: Antonín Dvořák

10. Music for Henrik Ibsen's "Peer Gynt" was written by which composer?

Answer: Edvard Grieg

11. Who composed "The Carnival of the Animals"?

Answer: Camille Saint-Saëns

12. The "Unfinished Symphony" is by which composer?

Answer: Franz Schubert

13. Which composer was born near Warsaw in Poland?

Answer: Frédéric Chopin

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