



The young person's guide to the composers - with explanations

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| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Mozart | recapitulated | |
| G. & S. | collaborated | <i>(Gilbert & Sullivan, of course)</i> |
| Glazunov | inebriated | <i>(Drank a lot)</i> |
| Gordon Jacob | orchestrated | <i>(Best in the business)</i> |
| | | |
| Franz Liszt | Was not quite ordained | <i>(He received the tonsure and the minor orders)</i> |
| Borodin | was all self-trained | <i>(He was a chemist by trade)</i> |
| Arthur Bliss | was colourised | <i>(Saw pitches as "colours")</i> |
| Arbeau | anagrammatised | <i>(Changed his name)</i> |
| | | |
| Mussorgsky | pictured ugly gnomes | <i>("Pictures at an Exhibition")</i> |
| Ligeti | used metronomes | <i>("Poeme symphonique for 100 metronomes")</i> |
| Hummell | now almost forgotten | <i>(Beethoven's rival)</i> |
| Delius | thought all Bach was rotten | <i>(Disliked repetition in music)</i> |
| | | |
| Schubert | left his uncompleted | <i>(More than once)</i> |
| Glass | repeated... and repeated | <i>(Minimalism pioneer)</i> |
| Berlioz | decapitated | <i>("March to the Scaffold")</i> |
| Erik Satie |hesitated | <i>("Gymnopedies")</i> |
| | | |
| Wagner | sought complete perfection | |
| Mahler | scored the Resurrection | <i>("Resurrection Symphony")</i> |
| | | |
| Josef Suk | loved Dvorak's daughter | <i>("Azrael Symphony")</i> |
| Jean Sibelius | served cold water | <i>(His own quote)</i> |



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|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Shostakovich | angered Stalin | <i>("Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk")</i> |
| Johann Strauss | Vienna's darling | |
| Richard Strauss | was sometimes sordid | <i>("Elektra", "Salome" etc.)</i> |
| Elgar | got it all recorded | <i>(Spent his last years recording all his works)</i> |
| | | |
| Dukas | brought a broom to life | <i>("Sorcerer's Apprentice")</i> |
| Poulenc | never found a wife | |
| Debussy | played a dreamy faun | <i>("Prelude a l'apres-Midi D'Un Faun")</i> |
| Ravel | danced on from dusk till dawn | <i>("Daphnis & Chloe" Ballet)</i> |
| | | |
| Dohnanyi | played a nursery rhyme | <i>("Variations on a Nursery Theme")</i> |
| Scriabin | thought himself divine | <i>(Honestly! Overdosed on theosophy)</i> |
| Sousa's | instruments were blown | <i>(The Sousaphone, of course)</i> |
| Offenbach | autographed "O de Cologne" | <i>(He was born in Cologne, France)</i> |
| | | |
| Webern's | work was met with laughter | <i>("Six Pieces For Orchestra")</i> |
| Berg's | was a complete disaster | <i>("Altenberg Lieder")</i> |
| Schnittke's | works are full of violence | |
| Cage's | mostly ... | <i>(4 mins 33 secs total silence)</i> |
| | | |
| Gershwin | sought to entertain us | <i>(And did!)</i> |
| William Herschel | found Uranus | <i>(He also wrote music)</i> |
| | | |
| Holst | wove his spell round the planet | <i>("Uranus, the Magician")</i> |
| Rachmaninov | found he could span it | <i>(He had very large hands)</i> |



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| Karlheinz | works on scales colossal | <i>(Stockhausen - "Licht")</i> |
| Charles Camille | a "living fossil" | <i>(Saint-Saens - "Carnival of the Animals")</i> |
| Peter T. | was never happy | <i>(Tchaikovsky - Very self-critical)</i> |
| Ludwig Van | removed his Nappy | <i>(Beethoven's 3rd Symphony Dedication to Napoleon)</i> |
| | | |
| Vaughan-Williams | had a post-war vision | <i>(Symphony no.6 - finale)</i> |
| Bruckner | plagued with indecision | <i>(Always revising earlier works)</i> |
| Smetana | had E-flat ears | <i>(Suffered from Tinnitus)</i> |
| Ives | had his stretched, it appears | <i>(Metaphorically, by his father)</i> |
| | | |
| Stravinsky | danced a Pagan rite | <i>("Rite of Spring")</i> |
| Rodrigo | worked without a light | <i>(Blind from birth)</i> |
| Salieri | planned a misdemeanour | <i>(Poisoned Mozart???)</i> |
| Arnold | used a vacuum-cleaner | <i>("A Grand Grand Overture" which uses 4 of them!)</i> |
| | | |
| Bernstein | was a heavy smoker | <i>(Which eventually killed him)</i> |
| Reizenstein | did play the joker | <i>("Concerto Popolaire" etc.)</i> |
| Mendelssohn | was most distinguished | <i>(Aristocratic)</i> |
| Nielsen | couldn't be extinguished | <i>("Inextinguishable Symphony")</i> |
| | | |
| Tippett | shared a bed with Britten | <i>(Allegedly)</i> |
| Schumann | was with madness smitten | <i>(Spent his last years in a madhouse)</i> |
| | | |
| Berio | used the odd quotation | <i>(Usually from Mahler)</i> |
| George Lloyd | needs no explanation | <i>(Wrote 12 Clear tuneful symphonies)</i> |



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|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| Paganini | wooed the ladies | <i>(The first ever "Superstar")</i> |
| Khatchatourian | danced on sabres | <i>("Sabre Dance")</i> |
| Orff | discovered filthy habits | <i>("Carmina Burana")</i> |
| Bach | and family bred like rabbits | <i>(He had 25 children!)</i> |
| Prokofiev | wrote in fits and starts | |
| Gorecki | got into the charts | <i>("Symphony of Sorrowful Songs")</i> |
| Walton | spent a half hour feasting | <i>("Belshazzar's Feast")</i> |
| Litolff | got locked up for cheating | <i>(Fraud, actually)</i> |
| Haydn | organised a strike | <i>("Farewell Symphony")</i> |
| Chausson | fell right off his bike | <i>(Died of a cycling accident)</i> |
| Lully | speared his foot in error | <i>(Died of gangrene)</i> |
| Wendy Carlos | was a feller! | <i>(Changed his gender)</i> |
| Rossini | in a Leap-Year born | <i>(29th Feb 1792)</i> |
| Duparc | died in a thunderstorm | <i>(Unknown - poetic license!)</i> |
| Arriaga | barely started | <i>(Killed age 19)</i> |
| Brian | finally departed | <i>(At the age of 96)</i> |
| Adès | new kid on the block | |
| Martland | he sets out to shock | <i>("Drill")</i> |
| Turnage | drowned some Screaming Popes | <i>("Drowned Out", "Three Screaming Popes")</i> |
| Nyman | gives us future hopes | |

