

Grade 11

Western Music

Modern Period (1900 onwards)

Introduction

Music from the modern period sounds quite different to the music written earlier. New approaches to chords, rhythms and percussive sounds which were refused at the beginning are now commonly heard in Jazz, Rock, Pop and Reggae music,

George Gershwin (1898 - 1937) American

About : Was an American composer and pianist. Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. He composed mostly movie music.

Main works :

•Piano work

- * Rhapsody in Blue

•Opera

- * Porgy and Bess

- * An American in Paris



Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953) Russian

About : Noted as composer of stage music, Symphonies and concertos. Internationally famous programme music titled, 'Peter and the Wolf' is a fine work done by the composer. This music composition introduces orchestral instruments imitating different characters. They are,

Peter – String instruments

Duck – Oboe

Cat – Clarinet

Bird – Flute

Wolf – 3 French Horns

The hunters – Timpani and the Bass Drum

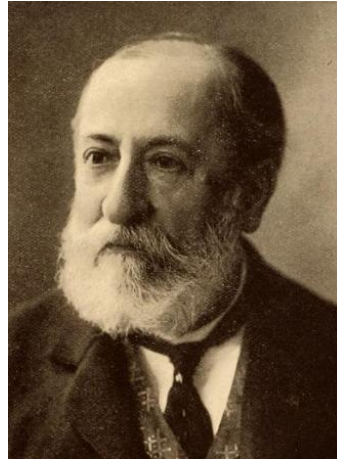
Grand father - Bassoon



Main works :

- Peter and the wolf - This is a musical story where the characters are represented by instruments of the orchestra. This is a programme music piece.
- Ballet – Romeo and Juliet
- Opera - War and Peace

Camille Saint – Saëns (1835 - 1921) French



About : Composer, Organist, Conductor and pianist

Main works :

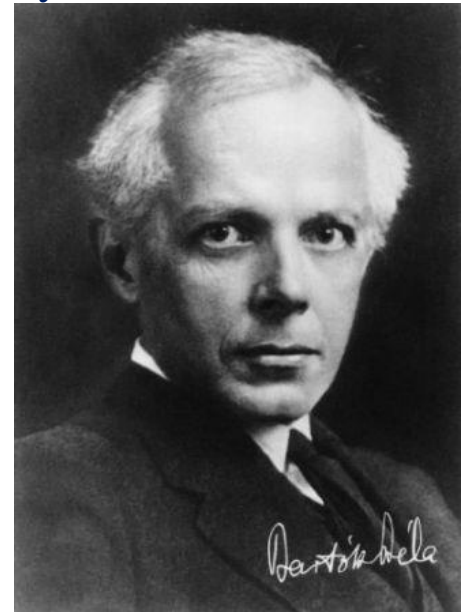
- The carnival of the animals (Le Carnaval des Animaux) is a humorous musical suite of fourteen movements, originally written for a private performance. It is for an ensemble of two pianos and other instruments.

Bela Bartok (1881 - 1945) Hungarian

About : A composer and pianist. He is considered as one of the most important composers of the 20th century. He and Liszt are regarded as Hungary's greatest composers. Bartok touched mostly on Folk music of Hungary. His music was influenced by central European folk idioms.

Main works :

- Concerto for Orchestra
- Rumanian Folk Dances
- Duke Bluebeard's Castle
- Music for strings, percussion and celesta.



Igor Stravinsky (1882 - 1971) Russian born and later American

About : Composer, pianist and conductor. He is widely considered to be one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century. On his 80th birthday, he was honoured at a Dinner hosted by the President of U.S.A John F. Kennedy.

Main works :

- The Rite of spring
- The Fire bird
- Petrushka
- The Rake's Progress



Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976) English

About : A composer, conductor and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th century, British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, Orchestral and chamber pieces

Main works :

- Peter Grimes
- The war requiem
- Billy Budd

