

Famous Composers Lesson Plan

Audience: Fourth grade

Overview: Students will learn about the lives of Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven and will create a short melody to hear harmonized in the style of each of these composers.

Objectives:

- List some facts about the lives of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven
- Write a short melody
- Identify differences in style between Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven

National Standards Addressed:

MU:Cr1.1.4b: Generate musical ideas (such as rhythms, melodies, and simple accompaniment patterns) within related tonalities (such as major and minor) and meters.

MU:Cr2.1.4b: Use standard and/or iconic notation and/or recording technology to document personal rhythmic, melodic, and simple harmonic musical ideas.

MU:Re7.2.4a: Demonstrate and explain how responses to music are informed by the structure, the use of the elements of music, and context (such as social, cultural, and historical).

Duration: 1 class period

Materials:

- Device with internet access and headphones for student
- Assisted Melody site (<https://g.co/arts/tANWQtwK9khuA88A7>)
- Handout (see below)

Prior Knowledge and Skills:

- Familiarity with Western notation
- Able to use laptop/device

Preparation:

- Print handout or share digitally with students
- (optional) Share website link digitally with students

Procedure:

1. Pass out handout to students
2. Students go to the Assisted Melody website: <https://g.co/arts/tANWQtwK9khuA88A7>

3. Students explore the site and write down facts about each of the three composers.
4. Students write their own melody.
5. Students listen to their melody harmonized in the style of Bach, Beethoven and Mozart and compare the three.
6. Lead a class discussion about the composers. Talk about the composers' lives and about their style. Encourage students to apply music vocabulary to the differences they heard.

Differentiation:

- For students who may have a harder time inventing their own melody, come up with a few melodies they could choose between or the first two or three measures of a melody for them to finish
- Students could be allowed to work in groups

Feedback, Evaluation, and Assessment:

- Evaluate student handouts
- Evaluate students' responses in class discussion

Extension/Follow-up:

- Listen to music written by Bach, Mozart and/or Beethoven. Have students share ways in which the music sounds similar to the harmonizations of their melodies.
- Have students play one of the harmonizations of their melody for each other. See if students can guess which composer's style is being imitated by listening.
- Have students learn to play their melodies on Orff instruments, recorder, or other classroom instruments.

Tips:

- It may take a bit of time for the site to make the harmonizations
- The bottom left corner of the screen has a button to allow you to change the instrument and tempo
- If students wish to save/share their compositions, the button in the bottom right corner allows you to create a link to a piece or share to Google Classroom or other sites

Names _____

Famous Composers

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Learning about composers

Go to the Assisted Melody experiment at <https://g.co/arts/tANWQtwK9khuA88A7>. The site has information about Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven. In the table below, write down facts you learn about each of the composers. Include at least three facts for each composer.

Johann Sebastian Bach	
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
Ludwig van Beethoven	

Writing your own Bach, Mozart and Beethoven

Assisted Melody will let you write your own melody and will harmonize it in the style of each of these composers. Come up with a melody to try and put it into the website and write it here:

Listen to your melody harmonized by each of the composers. (Click “Harmonize” at the top of the screen.) What do you notice about the different harmonizations? Compare the way your melody sounded in the style of each composer.

Which composer was your favorite? _____