

"THE LIFE OF GRANDPA!"—PART 20

IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING!

LOG Pt.20
LWG Vol.34
DFO

—SPECIAL MUSIC EDITION!

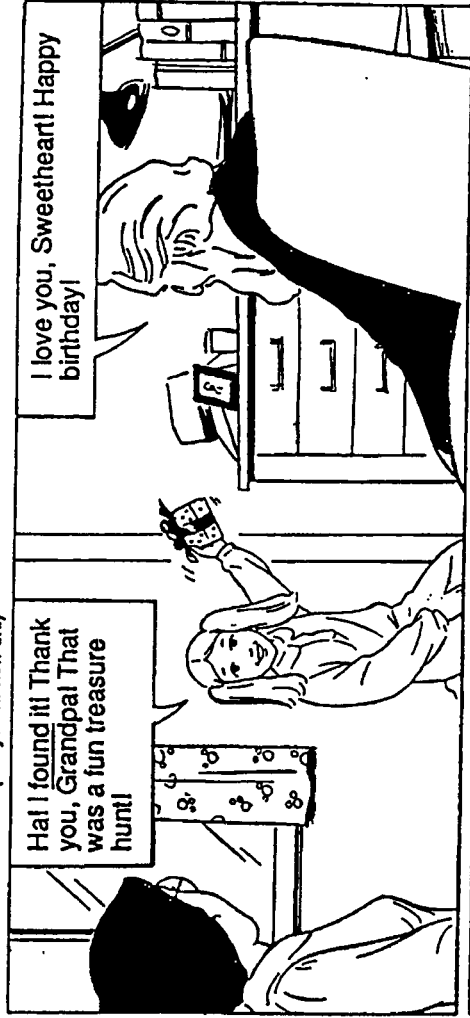
—1929—



Script by Simon Peter
Art by Jeremy, Eman
& Tamar

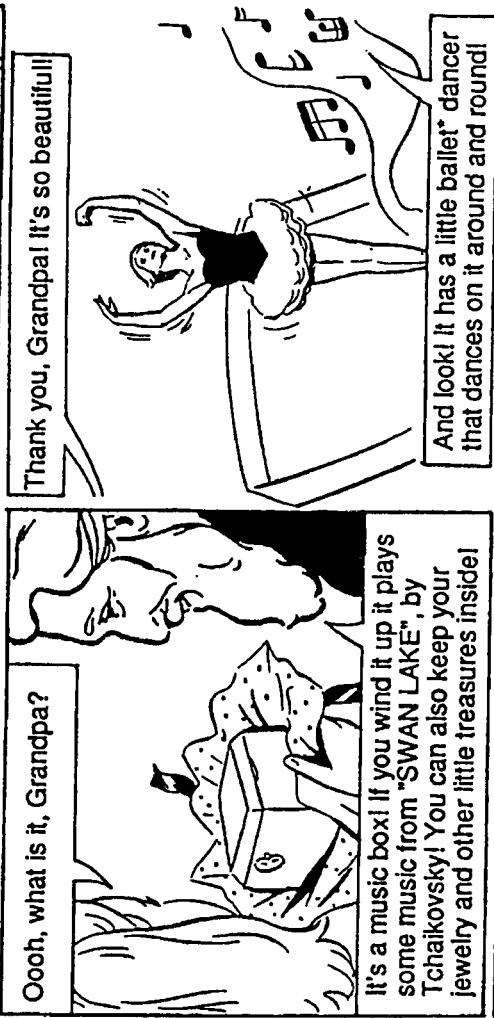
TCHAIKOVSKY* AND THE MUSIC BOX!

(*Say: Chi-koff-ski)



Ha! I found it! Thank you, Grandpa! That was a fun treasure hunt!

I love you, Sweetheart! Happy birthday!

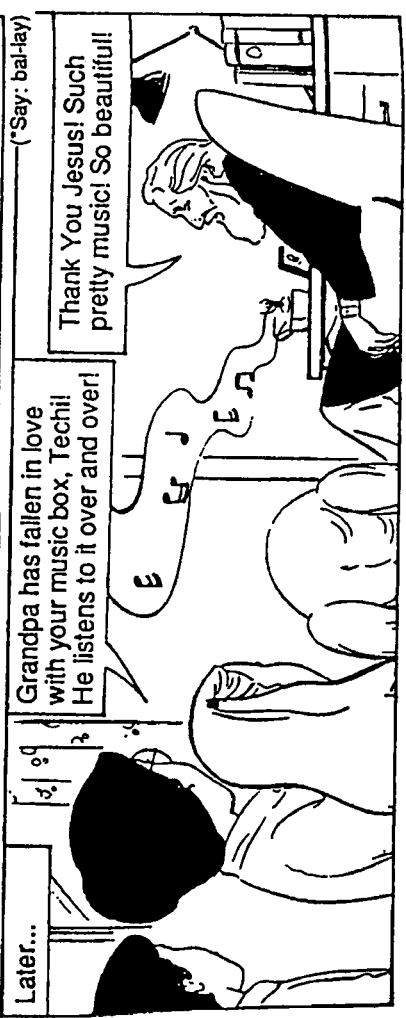


Oooh, what is it, Grandpa?

Thank you, Grandpa! It's so beautiful!

It's a music box! If you wind it up it plays some music from "SWAN LAKE", by Tchaikovsky! You can also keep your jewelry and other little treasures inside!

And look! It has a little ballet dancer that dances on it around and round!



Later...

Grandpa has fallen in love with your music box, Techii. He listens to it over and over!

Thank You Jesus! Such pretty music! So beautiful!

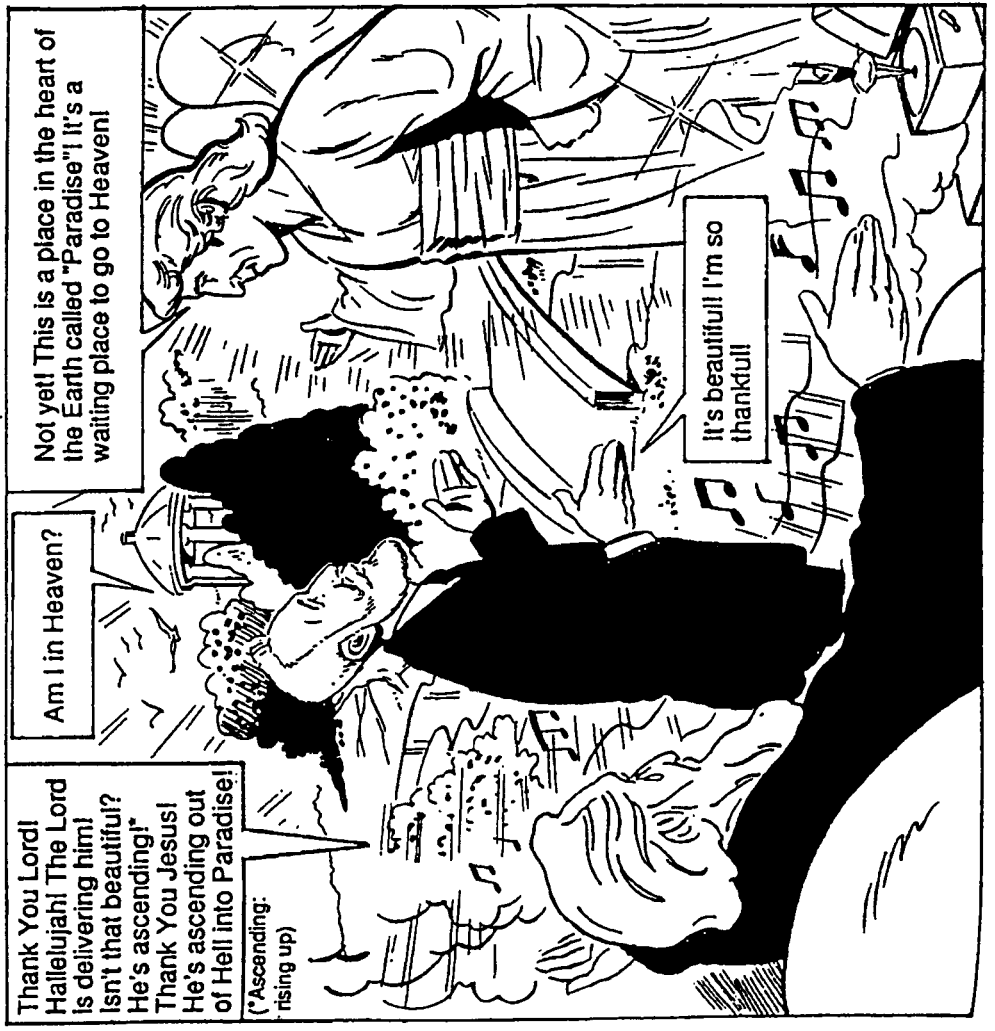
(*Say: bal-lay)



Bless Tchaikovsky, Lord! He wrote such sweet music! A gift from You, Lord, to write such beautiful music, a little bit sad, but beautiful, Lord! "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thoughts!" Bless him wherever he is, Lord!

Have mercy, Lord, and save him, in Jesus' name! Deliver him, like I delivered Tony the Iceman, and so many others in prayer for their souls! You can do it for Tchaikovsky too! Lift him out of the Pit if that's where he is, Lord! Help him to know that I love him and am praying for him, because he wrote such beautiful music that I love! Deliver Tchaikovsky, Lord!

(* See "Tony the Iceman", LWG Vol.2 pg.269)



Am I in Heaven?

Thank You Lord! Hallelujah! The Lord is delivering him! Isn't that beautiful? He's ascending! Thank You Jesus! He's ascending out of Hell into Paradise!

(*Ascending: rising up)

Not yet! This is a place in the heart of the Earth called "Paradise"! It's a waiting place to go to Heaven!

It's beautiful! I'm so thankful!

Did you see Tchaikovsky?

Yes, thank You Lord! I saw him pass by out of Purgatory into Paradise! Purgatory is the place where people get punished for their sins.



Was he bad?

Sometimes, like all of us! But now the Lord is forgiving him and having mercy, because He gave him that great gift to write such beautiful music! We need that kind of music in Heaven, so beautiful



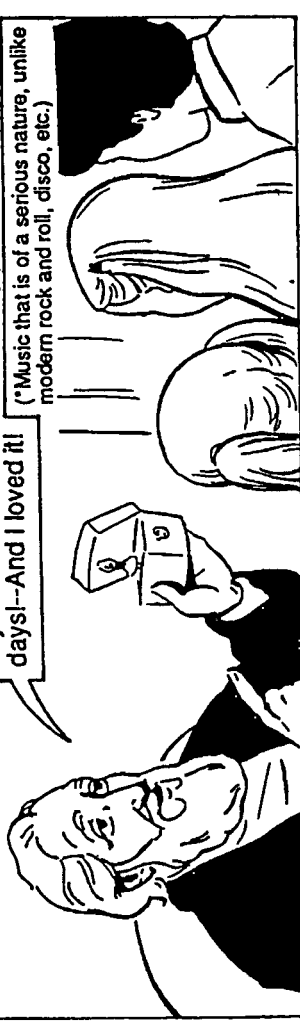
Tchaikovsky wrote the "NUTCRACKER SUITE" and "SWAN LAKE" and all those beautiful, beautiful ballets with beautiful girls that I love!

(* A suite (say: sweet) is a series of different musical pieces, usually connected by some idea or story.)

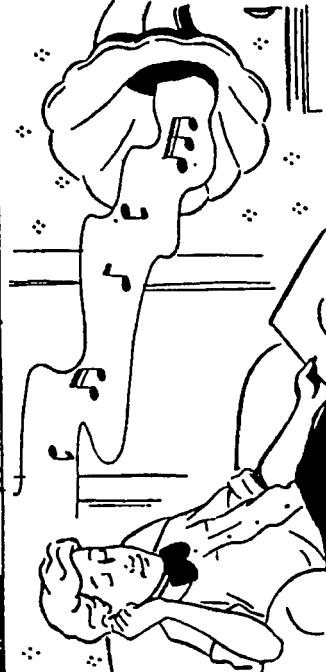
IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING!

I always loved good classical* music ever since I was a boy! Classical music was still very popular in those days!--And I loved it!

(*Music that is of a serious nature, unlike modern rock and roll, disco, etc.)



Sometimes, when I had a day off from school I used to sit by the old fashioned crank-up record player, and listen for hours to some of the inspired music of those great composers! My Dad had gotten quite a few good recordings!



Vivaldi's "THE FOUR SEASONS", and the "PEER GYNT" Suite, by Edward Grieg!

(*Say: Geent)



New records!

Thank You Jesus! That's great, Dad! What did you get?

Thanks, Dad! I'll take good care of them! I just love listening to the music of these old composers!

"IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING" from the "Peer Gynt" Suite...

Hmm...that sounds interesting!

Later that afternoon...

Where's David? He's usually never late for his snack!

He's listening to records. It's strange, I keep hearing him play the same one over and over and over!

David?

Why...David!

Are you alright, Son? Why are you crying?

Oh, Mother!...It's this music!...It's so beautiful...But for some reason it just makes me weep and weep!

When I close my eyes I can't help seeing... pictures. I can't quite explain it, but it's almost like the music flips me out into another World and I am no longer here...I am there!...And in the Spirit I am a great king living in a Mountain cave!

Oh, really, David! You've got too much of an imagination!

No, it's not just my imagination! It's something to do with the music! It just thrills me and gives me the chills all over!

Well, this is a wonderfully inspired piece of music, and it could be that the Lord is trying to speak to you through it! You may not understand right now what He is trying to tell you, but maybe one day you will... maybe one day you will!

THE WALTER DAMROSCH* HOUR!

(*Say: Dam-rosh)

Grandpa, we've heard the "The Hall of the Mountain King" on our classical music appreciation tape!

It has a whole selection of some of the best classical music by several of the most famous composers!

Praise the Lord! That's excellent! It's good that you kids are getting a well-rounded education!

You don't want to be like the fellow who was asked...

Do you like Kipling?*

Uh...I don't know, I never "kippled" before!

(*Rudyard Kipling: Famous author and poet. Wrote "Jungle Book", "If", "The Road to Mandalay" See "The Rhyme Book", and ML No. 1821)

We even had in Junior High School what was called "Music Appreciation", where we learned the names of most of the famous composers and we heard a sample of their compositions. —So we weren't totally ignorant when we heard some music and maybe someone said, "Oh, isn't that a nice piece of Bach?""

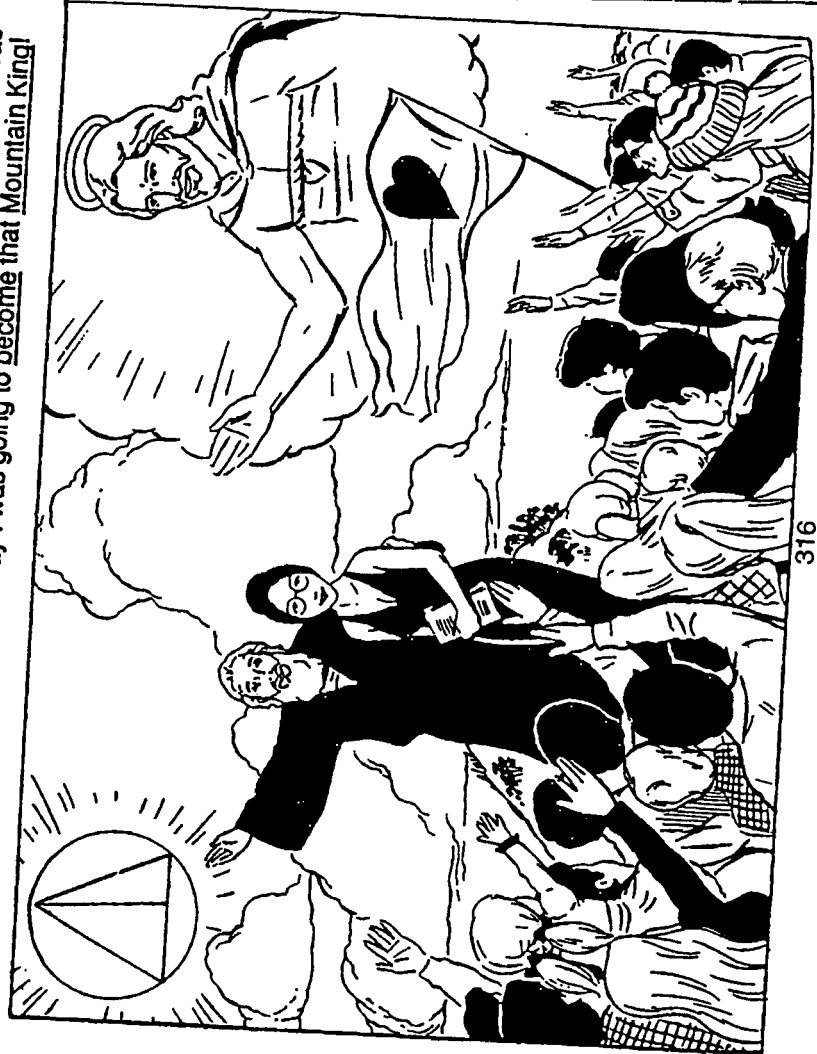
(*Say: Bahk)

Music like that is like a vehicle! It's almost like those science fiction* molecular transporters! Space transportation!

...They step into the space transporter machine and they disappear in one place.....

...And reappear in another!

I couldn't understand why I liked that particular piece of music and why it affected me so much, but I was getting a witness of the Spirit. The music was inspired, it was prophetic of my future! I was being identified! The Lord was trying to show me that one day I was going to become that Mountain King!

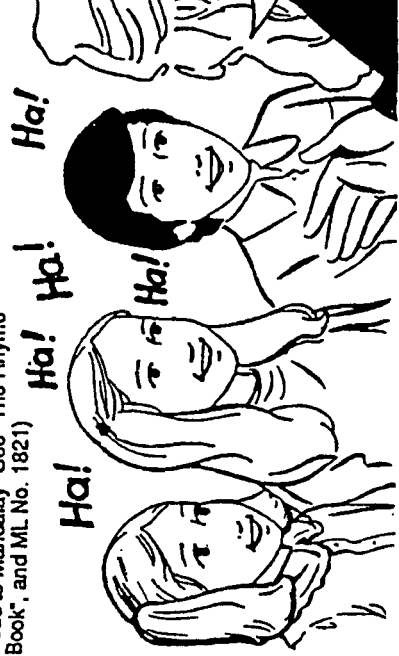


Ha! Ha! Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!



A nice piece of what, Grandpa?



Ha! See, you don't even know who Bach is!

Well, neither did I, until I started listening to the "Walter Damrosch Hour"! I remember how on Fridays the whole school would gather in the school auditorium to listen to his wonderful classical music program on the big old school radio!

(* Auditorium: A large room or building used for meetings, plays, lectures, etc.



Boy! Thank You Jesus! Time for Walter Damrosch! I look forward to this every Friday!

And now back with another Music Appreciation Hour, here's Walter Damrosch and the New York Symphony Orchestra!



Thank You Jesus! I so enjoy this program! I just love really beautiful music!

This Walter Damrosch is doing a wonderful job of making classical music popular with young people!



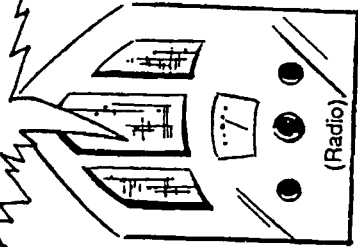
Yes, it's really high-class music, but he makes it so simple and interesting the way he explains it!

It shows if you have a good teacher you can interest kids! I always looked forward to his program every week! That's one way I learned all the instruments in the orchestra and what they sounded like!

Hello, young people, and music lovers everywhere! This week we're going to play some of the most famous and beautiful pieces of music ever written, and I'm also going to tell you a little about the great composers who wrote them!....



But first I'm going to introduce you to the different sections of the orchestra, so that you can hear how they sound!



(Radio)

Violin



The bow is a long stick of springy wood with horse hair tightly strung from one end to the other.

The VIOLA is like a large violin and is also tucked under the chin to be played. It has a deeper tone than the violin and usually plays the "accompaniment" to the main tune. The CELLO* looks like an even larger violin, but our cellist would find it rather awkward to play if he tucked it under his chin because it's so big! The DOUBLE-BASS is so large that the player is standing up to play it.

Viola

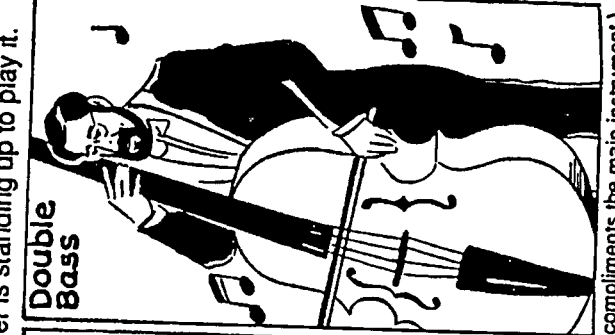


Cello

(*Say: chel-lo)

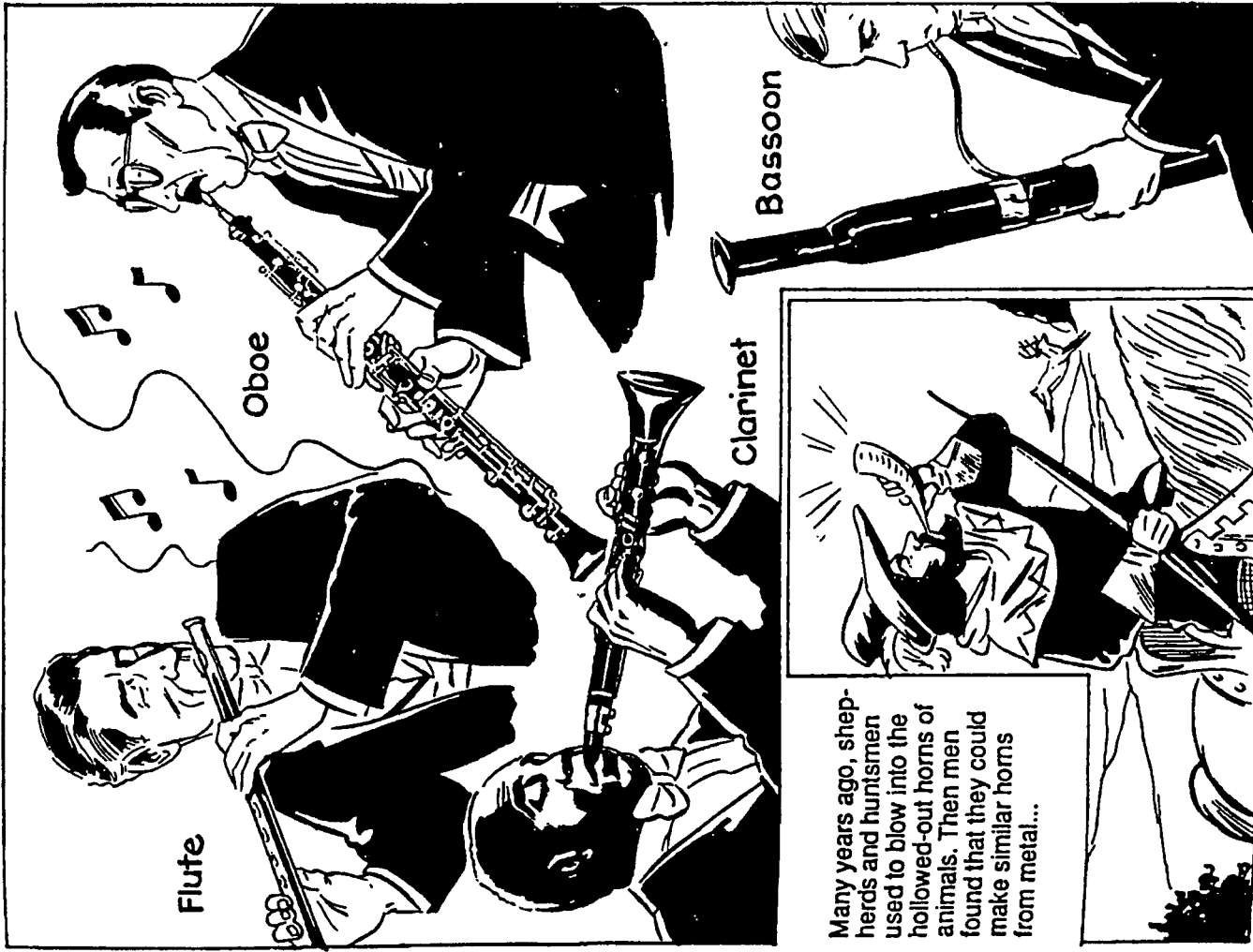


Double Bass



(*Accompaniment: Supports or complements the main instrument.)

You're now listening to the woodwind section of the orchestra, the beautiful rippling sound of the FLUTE, the rich penetrating tones of the OBOE and CLARINET, and the deep bass sound of the BASSOON!



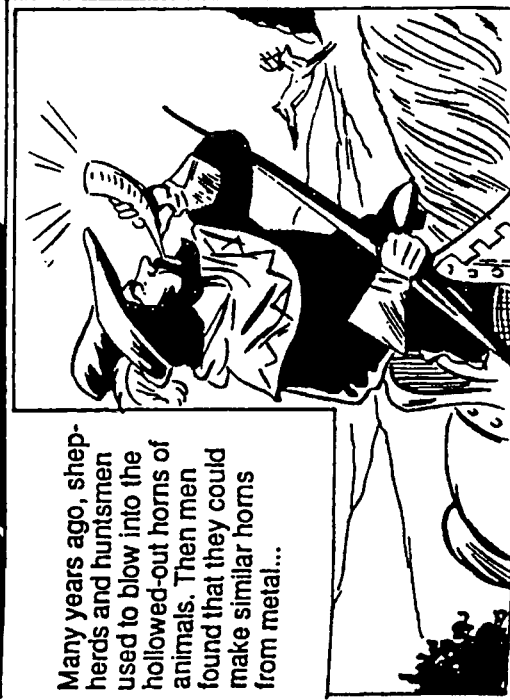
Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

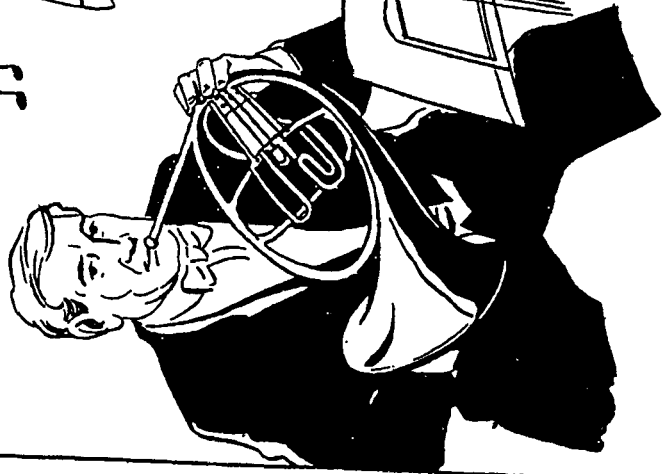
Bassoon

Many years ago, shepherds and huntsmen used to blow into the hollowed-out horns of animals. Then men found that they could make similar horns from metal...



These were the beginnings of all the brass instruments in our modern orchestral--The FRENCH HORN, the TRUMPET, the TROMBONE, and the TUBA!

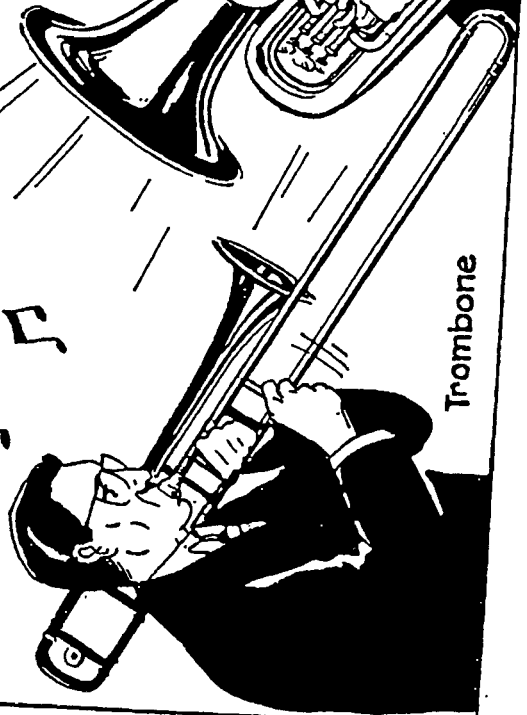
French Horn



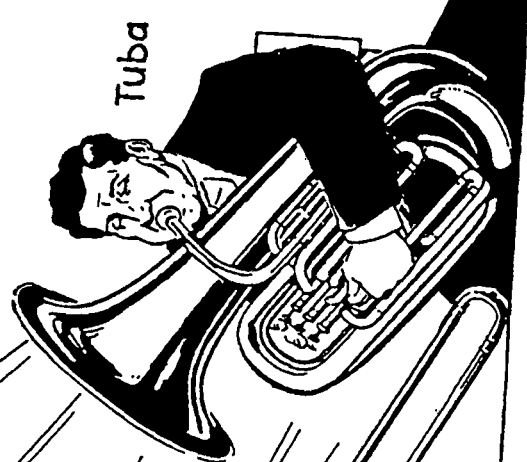
Trumpet



Trombone



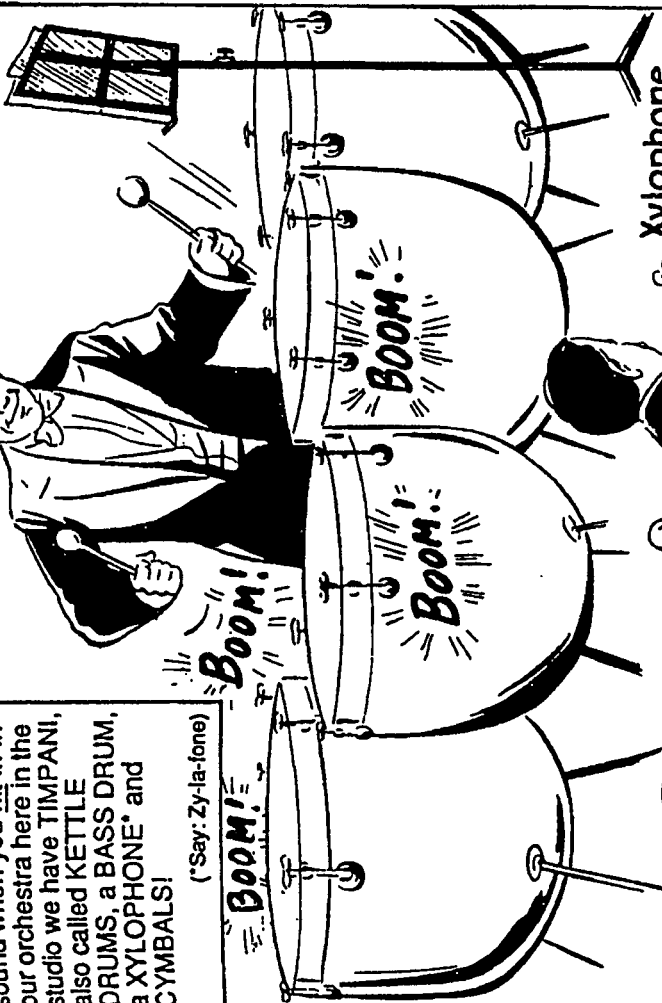
Tuba



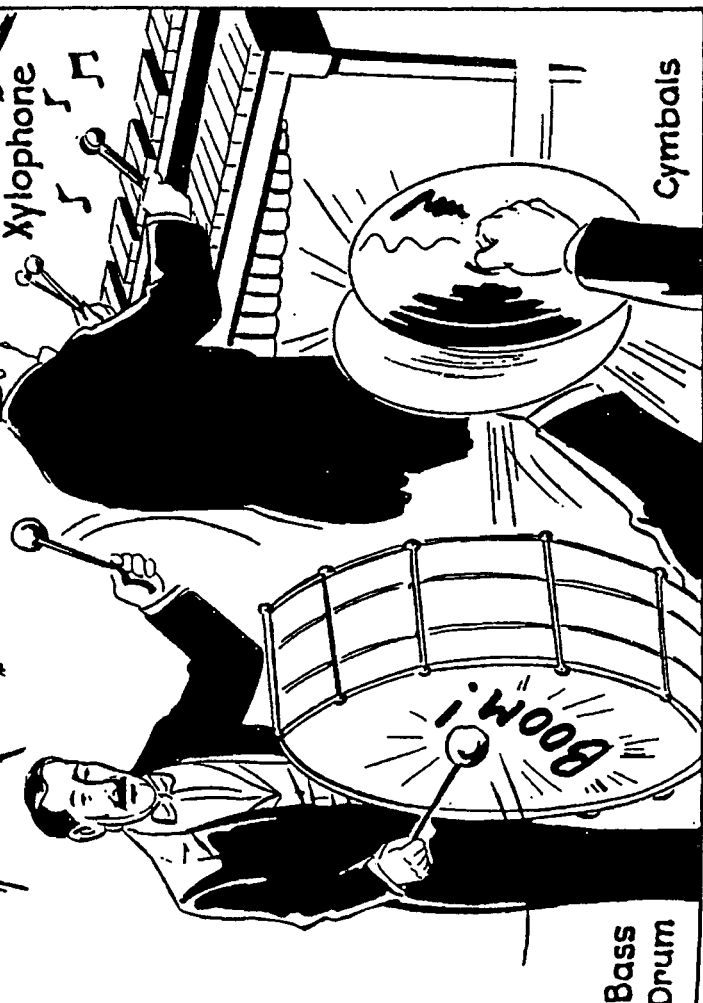
The percussion section can include any instrument which produces a sound when you hit it! In our orchestra here in the studio we have TIMPANI, also called KETTLE DRUMS, a BASS DRUM, a XYLOPHONE* and CYMBALS!

(*Say: Zy-la-fone)

Kettle Drums

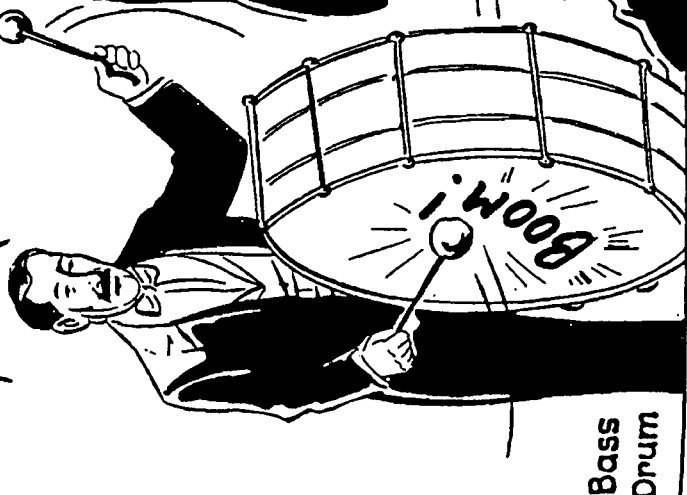


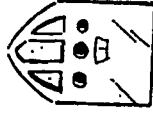
Xylophone



Cymbals

Bass Drum





So now you're probably wondering what I do!--Well, I'm the CONDUCTOR of the orchestra! The conductor ensures that the sounds of all the instruments in the various sections--the strings, woodwind, brass and percussion--are coordinated and blended together so that the music is played according to the way the composer* wrote it!

(*Composer: A person who writes music.)



The conductor has in front of him the SCORE, which shows all the instruments' parts, so he knows how to direct each section. Sometimes the conductor will not have the SCORE in front of him, which means he has memorised it! He also uses a small stick, called a BATON, to indicate the correct beat He has to decide how fast the music should go and how loud or soft each part should be played!

With this baton--and with a nod, a flicker of an eyelid, or the movement of a finger--the conductor's powers seem almost magical as the orchestra responds with magnificent sound or the quietest of whispers!



You just heard us playing a piece from the "CHORAL SYMPHONY" by Beethoven.* And now I'd like to tell you a little about the life of this great composer!

(*Say: Bay-toe-ven)

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To be continued!

IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING! Part 2

Ludwig Van BEETHOVEN (1770--1827)

LOG Pt.21
LWG Vol.35
DFO

The whole of Germany is talking about the triumphs of the young genius Mozart! He gave his first public concert when he was six, and so could you, my boy, so could you!

One of the greatest musicians that the World has ever known was Ludwig van Beethoven! Beethoven was born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany, into a musical family of court musicians.* His childhood was a serene* and happy one, except when his father got angry with him for not practicing his music.



But father, I don't even like music! Please don't make me play another note!

(*Court musician: Musicians who entertained kings or lords in their palaces or castles. *Serene: Peaceful)

Johann, your boy has real talent! He plays beautifully!

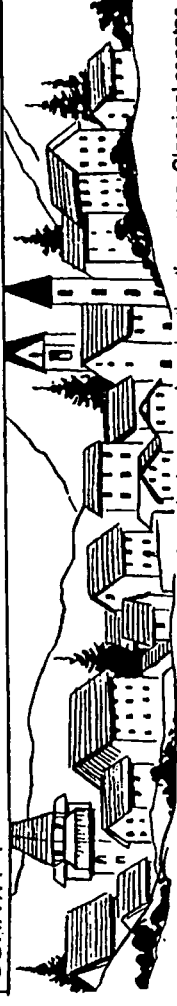
Who wrote this lovely piece?

But his father's persistence paid off, and when he was 11 Ludwig's interest in music suddenly sprang to life!



Why, he did!

At 17, he travelled to the great musical city of Vienna, in Austria. Here he received lessons from 2 of the most famous composers of his day, Mozart and Haydn. And here it was that he wrote one of his most entrancing compositions, the "MOONLIGHT SONATA**!"



(* A "Sonata" originally referred to any piece of music that was played rather than sung. Classical sonatas are either for a single keyboard instrument, such as a piano, or for a keyboard instrument and one other instrument.)

But first I'm sure you will be interested to hear the story behind this song!—Early one evening young Beethoven was passing by a shoemaker's cottage...



Why, thank you, kind Sir! Young Beethoven's music is the talk of Vienna! I should very much like to be able to play it!

My, what a fair young maid!

Oh, dearie me, I just cannot get it! Dear Lord, I wish I had the chance to hear some real musician play the piece properly.

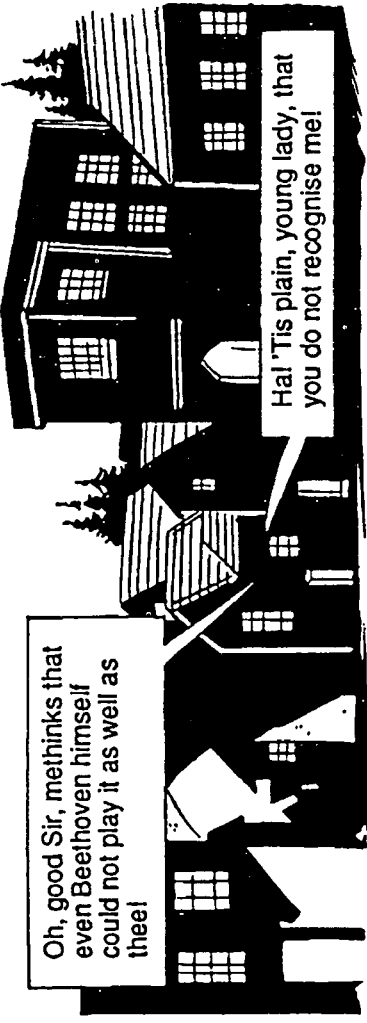


A few minutes later...

Fraulein*, please excuse my intrusion*, but as I was passing by your window, I overheard you practicing this piece and expressing the desire to hear a musician play it properly!...



(*Fraulein: An unmarried girl or woman in a German-speaking area.
*Intrusion: To come in uninvited.)



Oh, good Sir, methinks that even Beethoven himself could not play it as well as thee!

Ha! 'Tis plain, young lady, that you do not recognise me!



Daughter, the young gentleman who sits beside you is none other than Mr. Ludwig van Beethoven himself!

Ohhh!

How can I, Sir? For I am blind!



Oh, I'm so sorry... I didn't realise...

So as the dusk settled into evening, he sat and played for the girl for an hour or more....

I wish you could see the beauty of this night! The lone candle in the room has gone out, leaving only the silver glisten* of the moonlight!

(*Glisten: To sparkle or shine.)



Yes, I can see it! I can see it in your music!

Dear lady, this music has been inspired by you and the magic of this moonlit moment! I shall call it the "MOONLIGHT SONATA"!

Beethoven was always passionately fond of nature. He spent many long holidays in the country, where he took frequent walks! There was always a notebook in his hand for scribbling down ideas that came to him! It was this love of the countryside that inspired him to write his famous "PASTORAL SYMPHONY"!



If you listen carefully, you can hear the singing of the birds, a tumbling waterfall and gambolling* lambs! Even if you are not listening carefully, you cannot miss the magnificent thunderstorm when it comes in the fourth movement!



(*Gambolling: Skipping or leaping about playfully.)
(*Movement: A section of a musical piece or composition.)

Now I can no longer play piano, only compose music which I will never be able to hear!

Beethoven was regarded as one of the greatest pianists of his day. However at the age of 30 he began to go deaf, and by the time he was 40 he was only able to communicate with others by writing messages in a little notebook.



Despite all nature's obstacles, I shall have done everything in my power to become a worthwhile musician and an honourable man.

But, behind this seeming tragedy, God, as always, had a wonderful purpose! Shut away in a silent world, Beethoven was yet to produce some of his greatest music, like his 9th and last great work known as the "CHORAL"

Wonderful! Magnificent! Look, Beethoven has to be turned around to see the applause which he cannot even hear!



Ludwig Van Beethoven died of ill health in 1827. He wrote 9 symphonies, 32 Sonatas, and many other orchestral works. It was once said of him:

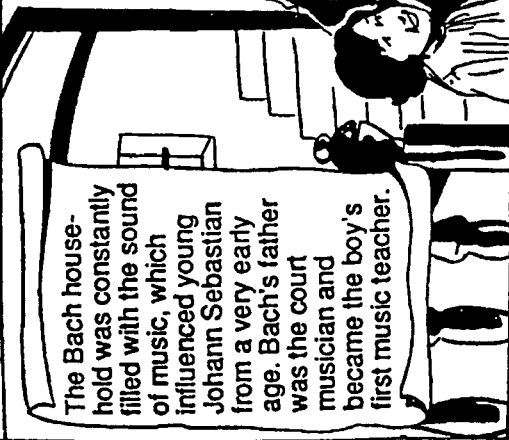
"Though so deaf he could not hear the thunder for a token, he made music of his soul, some of the grandest ever spoken!"



Johann Sebastian BACH (1685-1750)

(Say: Yo-han) (Say: Bahk)

It would have been surprising indeed if Johann Sebastian Bach had become anything but a musician! He was born in Eisenach, Germany, into what was perhaps one of the largest musical families ever known! Between 1560 and 1871 at least 53 members of the Bach Family were prominent musicians & occupied positions as town musicians! Bach himself had 20 children, most of whom also became musicians!



The Bach household was constantly filled with the sound of music, which influenced young Johann Sebastian from a very early age. Bach's father was the court musician and became the boy's first music teacher.



Bach's home had a small but beautiful garden where he loved to lie quietly on the lush grass and watch the clouds roll by as he listened eagerly to the Bible stories which his dear Mother would read to him!

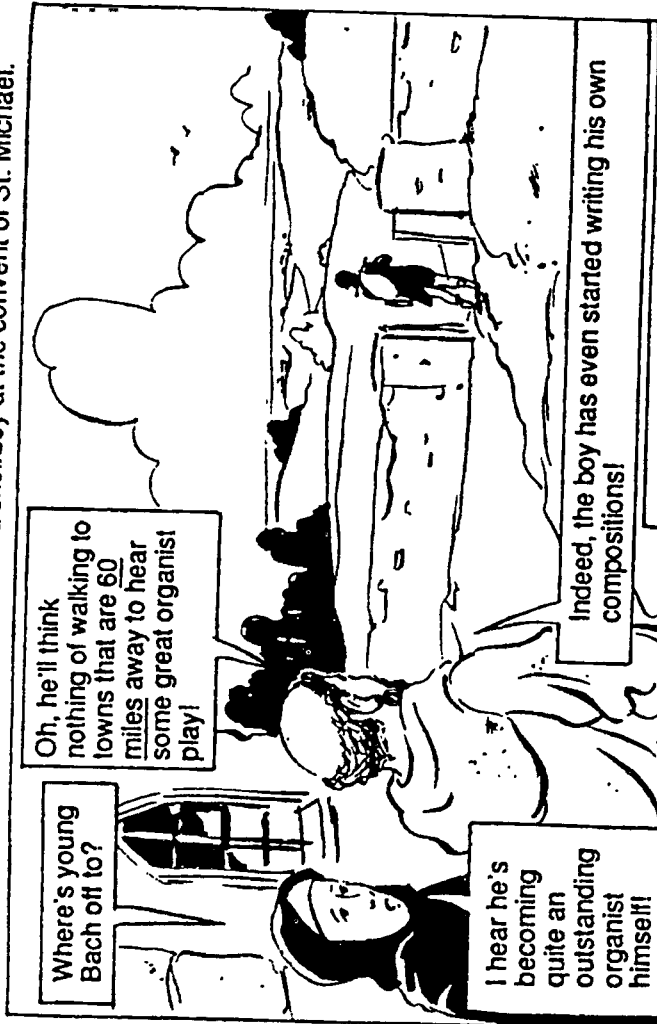


"And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain..."

The book of Matthew! I love it! It would sound wonderful put to music!

These daily Bible stories were to have a great influence on his future life and music!

When he was 15, Bach became a choirboy at the convent of St. Michael.



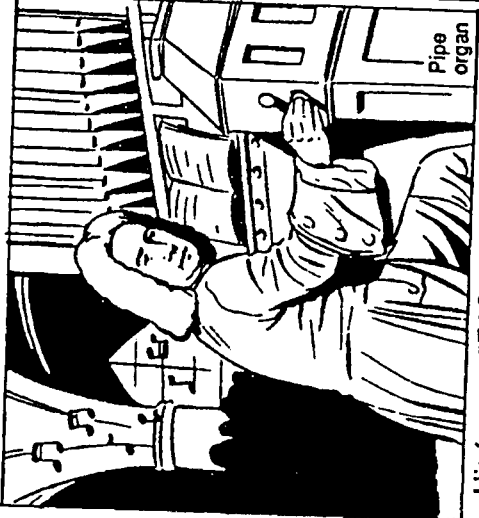
Where's young Bach off to?

Oh, he'll think nothing of walking to towns that are 60 miles away to hear some great organist play!

I hear he's becoming quite an outstanding organist himself!

Indeed, the boy has even started writing his own compositions!

At the age of 18, Bach got his first important job as organist and choirmaster at a new church in the neighbouring town of Arnstadt. From here his fame and reputation as a great organ player spread throughout the surrounding German towns!



Pipe organ

His famous "EASTER CANTATA" was written for his pupils at Arnstadt.

The Duke of Saxe-Weimer so admired Bach's musical gifts that in 1708 he employed him as his organist and choir master.

Johann, I have a splendid ideal I shall arrange a music tournament* between you and Louis Marchand, the great organist of the Court of King Louis XV* of France!
(*the 15th)



But, Sire, his organ playing is legendary...

Yes, but I'll wager* that yours is better!

(*Tournament: Contest) (*Wager: Bet)

When the famous French organist arrived for the contest, he happened to overhear Bach practicing. He was filled with awe and admiration!



My goodness, I could never compete with such genius! I must leave the town at once!

And the contest never took place!

Bach was a great family man! He married twice and had 20 children! He often led his family in concerts at home. Four of his sons also became famous composers!



Very good, my dears, beautiful!

Bach left Weimer, Germany in 1717 to become court music director to Prince Leopold. Then from 1723 until his death he served as Choirmaster of St. (Saint) Thomas' School at Leipzig. It was not such an important post, but he wanted it so his children could receive a good education. However, neither the Church Council, nor the people of Leipzig appreciated Bach's musical genius...

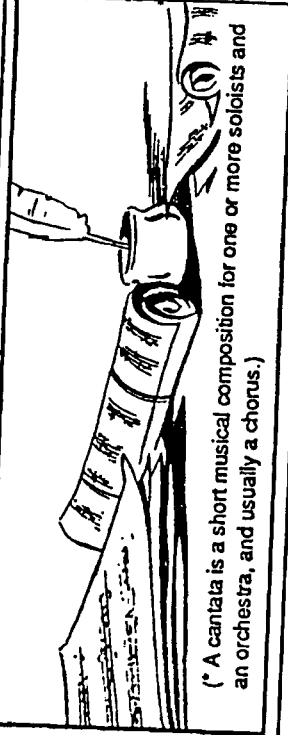
Look, Papa... There goes Herr' Bach, the great musician!

Great musician? If you ask me he's just a stuffy old man who stubbornly clings to the old forms of music!



(*Herr: Say 'hair', German for Mister.)

Nevertheless, 202 cantatas* that Bach wrote at Leipzig are still played today, whereas much of the music that was new and fashionable at that time has long been forgotten!



(* A cantata is a short musical composition for one or more soloists and an orchestra, and usually a chorus.)

Indeed, it was at St. Thomas' that he wrote some of his greatest works, "THE ASCENSION CANTATA", "THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO", "THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS", and...

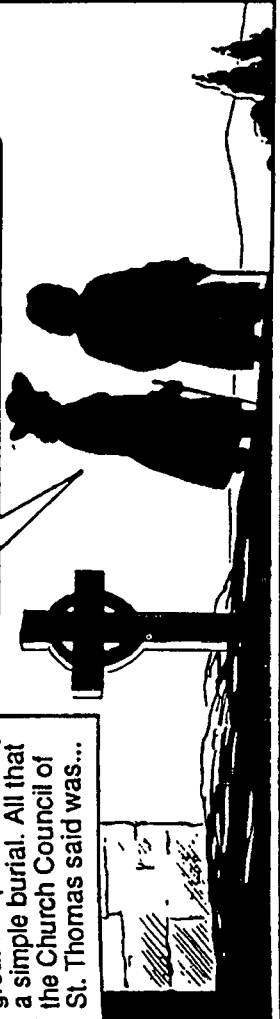
At last, it's finished! The music to the Book of Matthew! The "SAINT MATTHEW PASSION".



During his last years Bach became totally blind, probably due to copying by hand his own music all his life, usually in very poor light.

He died in 1750. There was no funeral for the great composer, merely a simple burial. All that the Church Council of St. Thomas said was...

Herr Bach was a great musician, no doubt, but now we need a choirmaster!



While Bach was alive, he was famous for being a supreme organist, not as a composer. His major works were not performed until many years after his death. Mozart was one of the first composers to recognise Bach's genius, and Mendelssohn was so thrilled by Bach's "SAINT MATTHEW PASSION", that he organized its first performance in 1829, 79 years after Bach's death!

Beautiful! Outstanding! This must rank along with Handel's "MESSIAH", and Haydn's "CREATION" as some of the greatest Christian music of all time!

Yes, this and his great "MASS IN B MINOR"!



In 1850, 100 years after his death, a society was formed to publish Bach's complete works. The society's 10 editors spent 50 years preparing 60 volumes of all his compositions! Since then Bach's works became widely popular and he became recognized as one of the greatest and most productive geniuses in the history of Western music!

"All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the recreation of the soul! Where this is not kept in mind, there is no true music, but only an infernal clamour and ranting!"—Johann Sebastian Bach



George Frederick HANDEL (1685-1759)

George Frederick Handel was born during the same year as Bach, also in Germany, and died a few years after him. He also was a supreme organist and suffered from blindness during the last years of his life. However Handel, unlike Bach, was not fortunate enough to be born into a musical family...



Isn't it being a little harsh, dear, to burn all of little George's toy instruments?

Not if it will discourage the boy from taking such a keen interest in music! I am a respected surgeon* here in the town of Halle, and I want my son to study for a respectable profession!

But young Handel was not so easily deterred* from what he already felt was to be his life's calling...

However you managed to sell me on the idea of smuggling a clavichord* up to the attic, I don't know!



(*Deterred: To be prevented or discouraged from doing something.)

A thousand thank you's, Mother! Don't worry, Papa won't find out!

(*Clavichord: An early keyboard instrument similar to a piano.)



But late one night...

Listen! I think that high above me I can hear the tinkling sound of music?

T..Tinkling sound?

Does it come from Heaven...or....

Once and for all I order you to forget any ideas you may have of ever becoming a professional musician! Do you hear me?

However, when Handel was 7, he went with his father on a trip to a town not very far away from his native Halle, where the Duke of Saxony happened to overhear the young lad playing on the chapel organ!

Whose boy is this?



Y..Yes Sir.

Uh...mine, Sir! I'm so sorry, I warned him not to...



George Frederick!

No, no, I am most impressed with your boy's talent! In fact, I absolutely insist that he has lessons with the chapel organist!



Oh, God bless you, Sir! That's an answer to my prayers!

Oh yes..uh..of course, Sir...thank you, Sir...

Young Handel showed such talent that within 3 years his fame as an organist spread throughout the land! When he was 11 he travelled to Berlin to continue his musical training, and when he was 18, to the musical city of Hamburg. Here he was offered a job as a violinist in the city's fine opera* house...

Ah, opera! I love it! I would very much like to write an opera* one day!



*Opera is amazing! It's music and singing and acting and dancing all rolled into one! Ballet is beautiful with its music and dancing, but you really miss the voices, especially the singer!

He also would frequently play the huge organs in the city's churches.



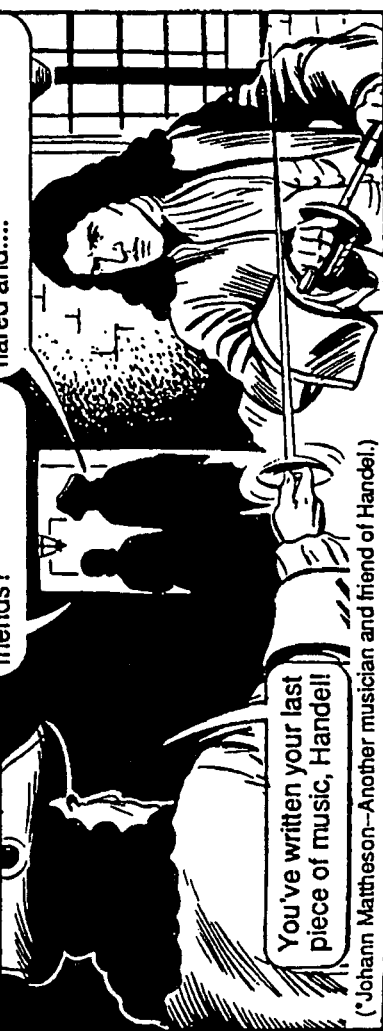
This young Handel is a sensation! What is the name of this piece?

'THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN'! It's his own composition! For a boy of 19 it is an outstanding achievement!

But as a youth Handel was as hot-tempered as he was talented...

Why are George and Johann* fighting? I thought they were best friends?

Johann has become jealous of George's success. They had an argument...tempers flared and....



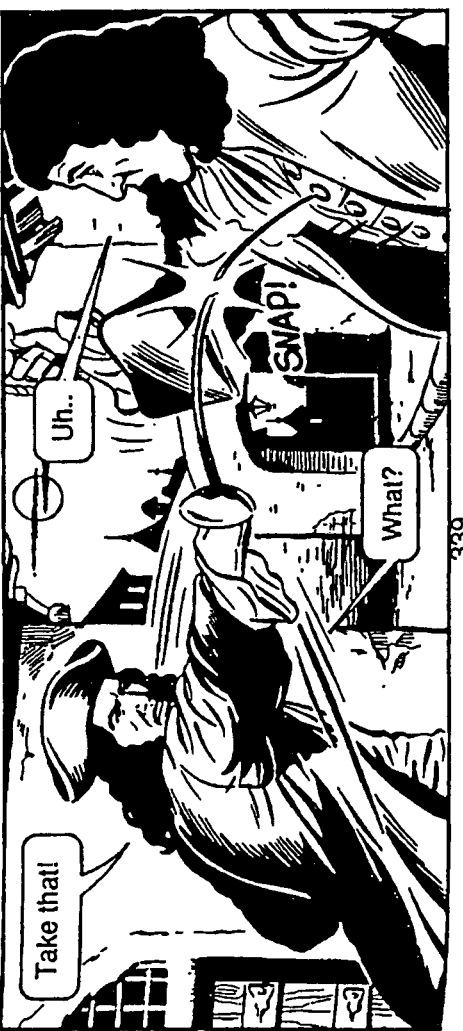
You've written your last piece of music, Handel!

(*Johann Mattheson—Another musician and friend of Handel.)

Take that!

Uh...

What?



SNAP!

Your sword struck a button on my coat and broke, Johann.

It seems that God has miraculously spared him from an early grave!



In 1704, Handel decided that he must go to the country whose music led the World—IItaly. Here he spent 3 years learning the latest in music. In 1707 he wrote his first Italian opera, "RODRIGO"...

Please allow me to introduce to you two great music lovers! The English Duke of Manchester, and Prince Ernest of Hanover, brother of Prince George, heir" to the throne of England!



Congratulations! "RODRIGO" is a great success here in Florence!

Opera is almost non-existent in my country, Mr. Handel. Someday you must play in England!

Thank you for the invitation, Sire!

Handel arrived in England in 1710, where his opera "RINALDO" was an immediate success. He soon became one of the most talked about musicians in the country. He became a great favourite both of King George I and his son King George II.

We wish to convey to you our deepest gratitude for bringing your exceptional music to our country!

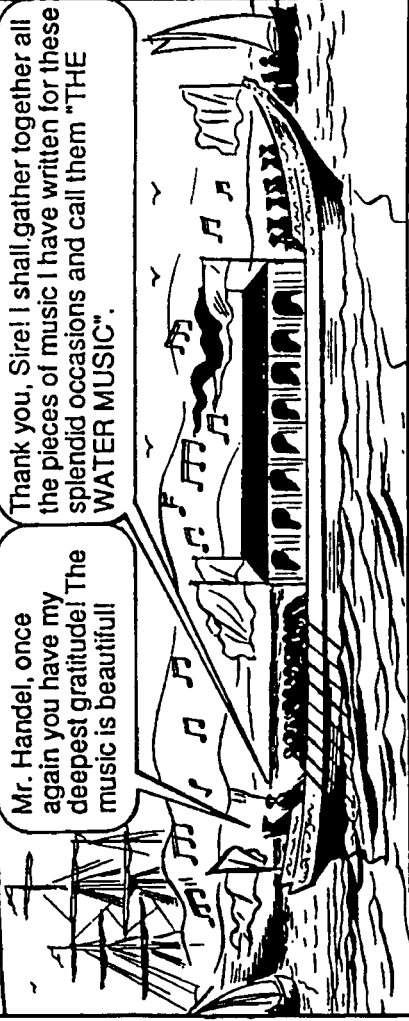
Thank you, Sire! I'm most honoured!

(*Heir: Say "sir". A person who will receive a title or property when someone dies.) (*Sire: A respectful way of addressing a king or nobleman.)

The King liked to travel on the River Thames with boatloads of courtiers* in a great procession* of barges, and have music playing as he was rowed along!

Mr. Handel, once again you have my deepest gratitude! The music is beautiful!

Thank you, Sire! I shall gather together all the pieces of music I have written for these splendid occasions and call them "THE WATER MUSIC".



(*Procession: A group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly manner, such as a parade.) (*Courtier: A member of a king or nobleman's house or council.)

In fact Handel wrote a lot of music for royal occasions, such as "ZADOK THE PRIEST", which was written for the coronation* of King George II, and which has been sung at every English coronation since!

(*Coronation: Crowning ceremony.)



In 1726, Handel became an English subject. However, success brought Handel many jealous enemies who were determined to bring about his ruin. They hired thugs to tear down posters and create riots outside the theatres where his operas were playing.

You'll stay away from Handel's operas if you know what's good for you!



Continual harassment by his enemies eventually ruined both his health and his fortune. Handel became terribly discouraged...

I'm sick and have little money left, my right side is paralysed, my creditors threaten to imprison me... Oh, dear God, I have never felt so low or at the end of myself... I shall give up writing opera...

Hmmm... yes... it may be that God does not wish me to continue entertaining the people with opera, but rather to write more lasting works that will praise and glorify His Name!



Throughout his life Handel had already written "ESTHER", "SAUL" and "ISRAEL IN EGYPT", but now several more great Biblical oratorios quickly flowed from his pen, including "SOLOMON", "SAMSON", "JOSHUA" and one of the greatest and most inspired pieces of Scriptural music ever written, "THE MESSIAH"!

(An oratorio is rather like an opera with a Biblical theme. It is performed by an orchestra, a chorus and soloists, but without any costumes or action. It is the same as a Cantata except much longer.)

I'm worried about Mr. Handel. He's barely stirred from his room during these past 3 weeks!



Yes, I bring him one meal only to find the previous one untouched!

Excuse me, Sir, but... are you all right?

Oh, yes, yes... I'm crying because it was so wonderful, so beautiful!



Uh... what was, Sir?

IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING! Part 3

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (1756-1791)

Scripted by Simon Peter Art by Eman & Tamar

LOG P1.22
LWG Vol.36
DFO



Heaven!...As I was writing this "Hallelujah Chorus", I do think that I saw all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756, just six years after the death of Bach, in the beautiful old town of Salzburg in the Austrian Alps! His father, Leopold, was employed as a musician in the Court of the powerful Archbishop of Salzburg. It very soon became obvious that Wolfgang was no ordinary child!

Oh, Wolfgang, you're interrupting my lessons again!

Please, Nannerl! I want to hear how these two sound together!

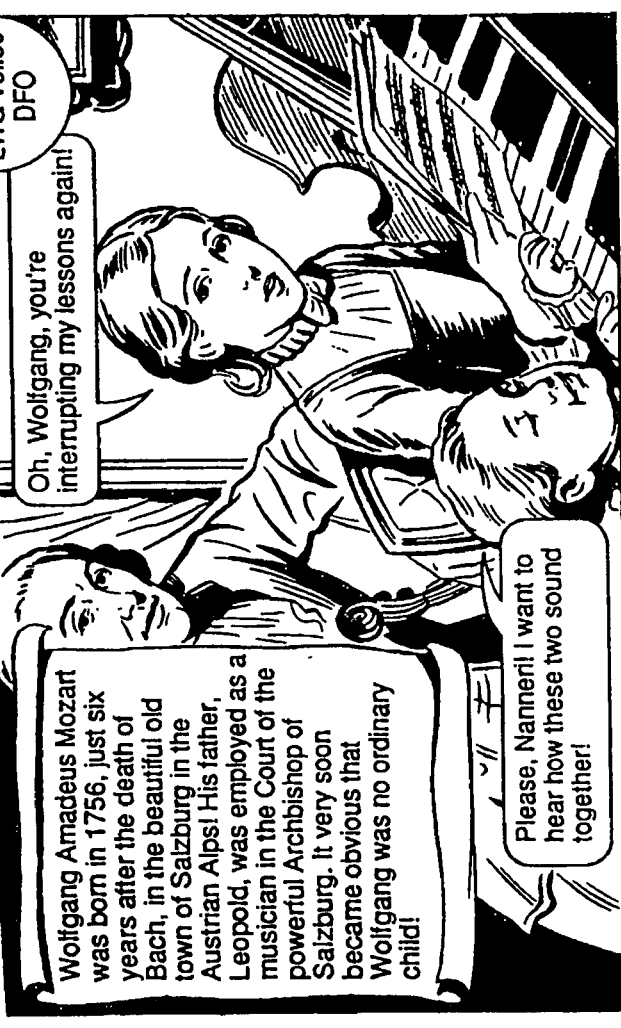
Handel wrote the "MESSIAH", based on the Scriptures of the Bible, in the incredibly short period of 23 days! When King George II heard the majestic "Hallelujah Chorus" he was so moved by it that he stood up out of respect—a tradition that audiences still honour to this day—which is called a "standing ovation"!



HALLELUJAH! KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!... FOREVER!

Like Bach in his last years, Handel became blind. He died in 1759, at the age of 74, after collapsing during a performance of the "MESSIAH" which he was conducting. He was buried with great ceremony in London's Westminster Abbey. (A famous old church in London, where the kings & queens of England, and other famous Englishmen are buried.)

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Wolfgang is not yet three, yet he's already taking great interest in his sister's music lessons!

Leopold soon realized that he had two children of genius on his hands. He decided to devote as much of his time as he could to personally teaching his children. Mozart had no other teacher and never went to school....



Our boy is brilliant in arithmetic, is doing very well in Greek and Latin....but who has ever heard of a five-year-old that could play such music!

Then one day, a year later, when Mozart was only six years old, Leopold returned home from Church with a friend...

What are you writing there so studiously, my son?

I'm writing a piano concerto*, Father!



(* Say: kon-cher-tee. The word "concerto" comes from the Italian word meaning "concert" or "playing together". It was used to describe a piece of music to be played by a small group of solo instruments and an orchestra.)

Ha! Let me see!

My goodness, this is truly amazing! The notes are written down correctly, and the music contains many new ideas!

Later...

Anna, as you know I am a deeply religious man, and, well, I now feel certain that our son has been sent as a special gift from Heaven...



Yes, indeed!

I propose that we pack our bags and set off on a grand musical tour of Europe! I believe that God wants us to share with the World the unique talents that He has given Wolfgang!

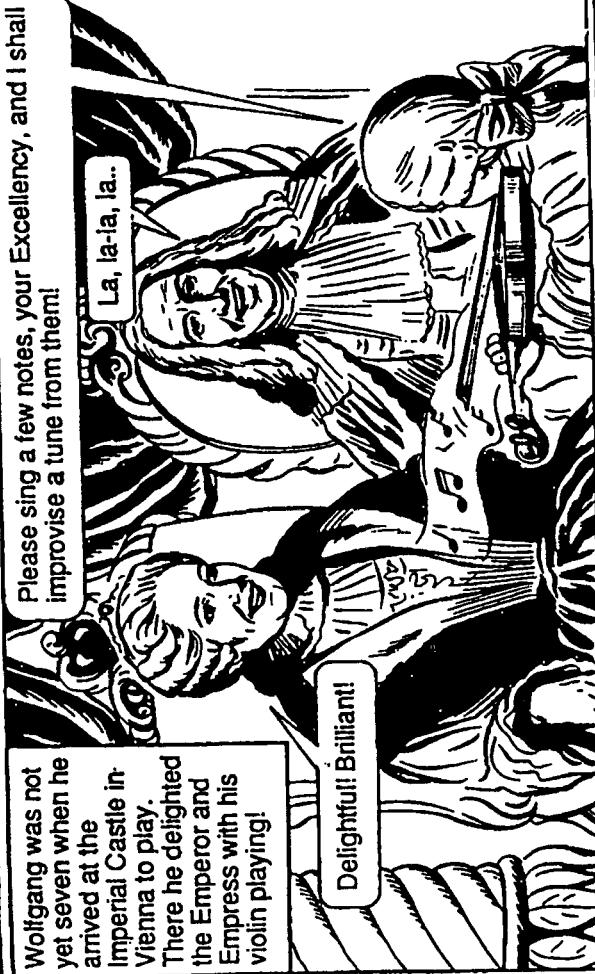
(FASCINATING FACT!—5 short piano pieces that Mozart composed when he was 6, are still frequently played today!)

Please sing a few notes, your Excellency, and I shall improvise a tune from them!

Wolfgang was not yet seven when he arrived at the Imperial Castle in Vienna to play. There he delighted the Emperor and Empress with his violin playing!

Delightful! Brilliant!

La, la-la, la..



In Paris, they played in the Court of Louis XV* ...

Your boy accompanies the daughter of King Louis beautifully! When did he learn this Italian song?

He didn't. He's never heard the song before! He's picking it up as he goes along!



Astounding!

(* Say: Louie the 15th.)

Until the age of 15, Mozart and his talented older sister, Nannerl, were hardly ever at home. Their father took them on concert tours to all the royal courts of Europe. In London, Mozart was welcomed as the boy wonder of the age.

May I introduce Miss Mozart, 13 years old, and Master Mozart, nine years of age! Master Mozart will now play his own composition "GOD IS OUR REFUGE!"



Without doubt, this boy is the greatest musical sensation of our time!

The original manuscript of "God Is Our Refuge" written in London when Mozart was nine, is now one of the treasures of the British Museum. Mozart wrote his first symphony* when he was eight, and his first operas when he was 12. When he was 14 he visited Rome where he attended a performance of Allegri's "MISERERE".**

Why, Son, it's almost daybreak! Have you not slept?!

No, Mother! The great work so moved me that I have spent most of the night writing down the entire musical score from memory.



But...but, you only heard it once!

* The word "symphony" literally means "sounding together". By the 18th century a "symphony" meant a large scale work for instruments of an orchestra as opposed to music for voices!
(** Say: Mis-er-ere)

When the Pope heard of this amazing feat, he honoured the boy by making him a Knight of the Golden Spuri (One of the highest honours of the Catholic church at that time.)

But his greatest honour came when he was made a member of the famed Philharmonic Society.

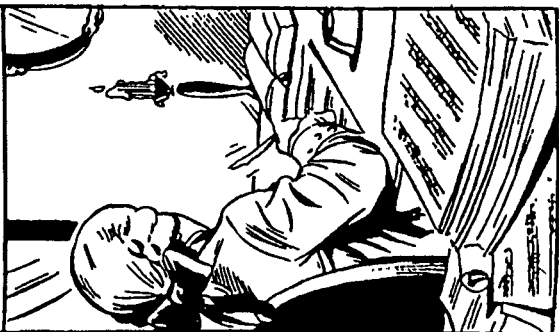
To become a member of this most distinguished Society, every composer must first pass a very demanding test!



It sounds like a challenge! What is it?

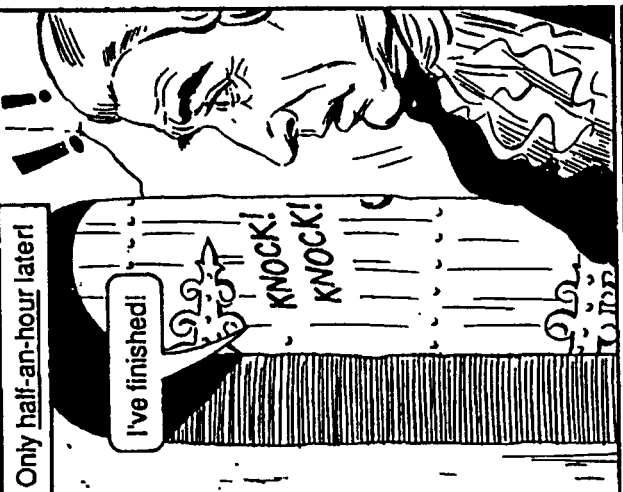
You are required to compose several pieces of music in only three hours, while locked inside this room!

By the time he was 20, Mozart had written many important piano concertos, organ works, masses, symphonies and operas.



Only half-an-hour later!

I've finished!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!



The best job he could find was as court organist for the strict and unkind Archbishop of Salzburg, who was jealous of Mozart's huge popularity.

His father hoped Mozart would become a court composer for some rich nobleman or monarch. But no such position was available.



No job yet, Father.

(* Monarch: A ruler, such as a king or emperor.)

When Mozart was 26, he journeyed to Vienna where he married a singer, Constance Weber, although his father advised him against it...

Son, you need someone who can help you manage the practical side of living, while you concentrate on your music.

No, Father, I love Constance and have already set the date for our marriage!

Mozart's father soon proved to be right. Constance was a good singer, but a terrible housekeeper, and the family was almost always in debt. Amongst Mozart's friends in Vienna at this time was the great composer Joseph Haydn ... ("Say 'High-den'")

Wolfgang, must you go off so soon on another concert tour? It's exhausting your health and strength!

I have to, Joseph... (cough, cough)... it's the only way I can earn enough money to pay our bills.

Bye, darling!

Nevertheless, in spite of hardships and ill health, during these last years of his life Mozart poured out some of his most famous symphonies and operas! "THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO", "DON GIOVANNI" & "COSI VAN TUTTE".

While he was at work on the "MAGIC FLUTE" in 1791, he was visited by a mysterious stranger...

I have a special commission for you to write a great Mass.

May I ask who this Mass is for?

There is not much time! You must start work on it as soon as you can!

Wolfgang... who was that man?

I'm sorry, but it is for a Patron whose name I cannot disclose. It is to be a Requiem* Mass.

(*Requiem: Special music written for a funeral.)

I..uh...see.

I don't know, Constance. But I have a feeling that maybe he's an angel, or some mysterious messenger from the next World sent to forewarn me of my death!

Why, because he asked you to write a Requiem?

A Requiem is special music written for a funeral. I am weak and tired and sick. It may be that the funeral will be my own!



...And that's exactly what happened! Mozart died of typhus* before he was able to completely finish his great "REQUIEM MASS". At the time of his death, he was so poor and unappreciated, that he was buried in a common, unmarked, pauper's grave!

*Typhus: A very dangerous disease which spreads easily from one person to another & people often die from it.



Thank you, Wolfgang, for giving so much beauty to the World through your music! Now, come hear music such as you have never heard before!



Although he was only 35 years old when he died, Mozart composed more than six-hundred musical works, and is today regarded as one of music's greatest and most inspired geniuses! (HAL!—TYJ!—D.)

Joseph HAYDN (1732-1809)

(*Say: High-den.)

Joseph Haydn was born in 1732 in the little Austrian village of Rohrau*. He was the son of a poor wheelwright.**

Ha! Look at your boy imitating the strolling fiddler with two sticks!



Yes, I've noticed that he shows signs of having some musical talent!

With your permission, I would like to help young Joseph receive a good education!

Why, thank you, cousin Franck, and God bless you!

(* Say: Ro-rau.) (** Wheelwright: Someone who makes and repairs wheels)

At the age of eight, with cousin Franck's help, he was taken into the cathedral choir of St. Stephen's, in Vienna.

Hey, Joseph, after choir practice we're going to play soldiers! Want to join us?

No, thanks. I like to spend my freetime practicing on the harpsichord!



(* Harpsichord: An early keyboard instrument similar to the piano.)

Haydn longed also to learn how to write music, but with very little encouragement from the choirmaster of St. Stephen's...



What's this?

Sir, it's a piece of 12 part church music that I'm trying to write!

Why, you silly lad! Aren't two parts enough for you?

But Haydn refused to be discouraged, and by studying during his few moments of free time, he gradually learned the basics of music composition.

At St. Stephen's Haydn became well-known not only for his fine voice, but also for his sense of humour and practical jokes. However, one time he went a little too far...



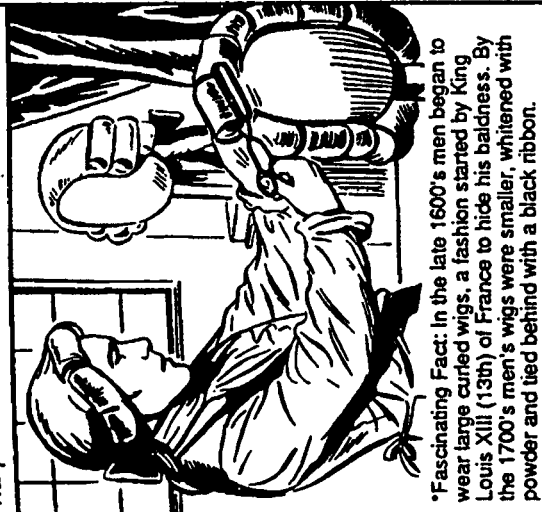
Goodness gracious, boy! What on earth have you done to your hair?

It was Haydn, Sir! He cut off my pigtail!

Out!

Haydn, now 17, was turned out into the street without a penny in his pocket and with nowhere to go.

He managed to get a job as a barber's boy. Slowly he scraped together enough money to rent an old attic & buy a harpsichord.



*Fascinating Fact: In the late 1600's men began to wear large curled wigs, a fashion started by King Louis XIII (13th) of France to hide his baldness. By the 1700's men's wigs were smaller, whitened with powder and tied behind with a black ribbon.

Here, he started giving music lessons, and writing his first compositions.

Dear Lord, this is the first Mass I have written, and as with all the music I shall write, let it be dedicated to Thy Glory!



He wrote his first Mass at 17, along with some other notable works which were a great success in Vienna. Haydn's name was already becoming well known! A rich young nobleman named Karl von Furberg heard of the young composer and employed him as a violinist at his house in Weizirf' ("Say: "Whites-er!")

Praise God! Now for the first time I can experiment and try out my new compositions on a full professional orchestra!



What beautiful compositions this young Haydn writes! Such sparkling melodies and so rich in colour!

In 1761, Haydn was offered the job of being the musical director for the Prince of Esterhazy, one of Austria's richest nobles.

Joseph, as you can see, I am building here a fantastic fairy-tale palace with 126 magnificent rooms, an opera house, a puppet theatre, temples and summerhouses! I shall call it Esterhaz!

It's beautiful, Sire! Fabulous!

As my music director, you will be expected to write music for every occasion and to produce something new and novel!

(*Novel: Strikingly new, unusual, or different.)

Life at Esterhaz was bliss for Haydn...

This situation is ideal for me! It gives me every chance to use the creative talents that God has given me to the full, and try out new ideas with a group of fine musicians!

CLAP! CLAP!

Bravo! Bravo! Joseph, I greatly admire your ability to brighten your music with a sense of humour! This 'TOY SYMPHONY' is novel and terrific!

For the musicians in his orchestra there was only one problem with the idyllic life at Esterhaz.

You see, Mr. Haydn, sir, the Prince so enjoys life at Esterhaz, that he is loath to ever leave it, or allow us musicians to see our families in Vienna.

Could you... somehow...

(*Loath: unwilling.)
(*Idyllic: Say: 'eye-dil-ik'—delightful, pleasant.)

Yes, yes... I have a fun idea as to what we can do!

That weekend...

Tonight we have prepared for the Prince a new and very novel symphony! It is called the 'FAREWELL'!

At the end of this symphony, the musicians stop playing one by one and walk out with the music under their arms!

Ha! Ha! Excellent! Excellent! The 'Farewell'! I get the hint!

Yes, you may have a well-deserved holiday, every one of you!

Haydn stayed happily at Esterhaz for the next 30 years, during which his fame spread abroad throughout all Europe. When the Prince died in 1790, Haydn was at last free to see something of life away from Esterhaz. He accepted an invitation to go to England where he wrote the "LONDON SYMPHONIES", an opera and several other works. He was always full of fun as one of his symphonies shows...

Gorgeous! But why did you call it the "SURPRISE"?

You'll see in a moment, m'lady!



Good Heavens!

TUM-TUM-TA!

I interspersed the slow movement with sudden loud passages, to make sure no one falls asleep!

In England, Haydn heard some of Handel's great oratorios like the "MESSIAH"...

God grant that I could write something so beautiful! From now on, I am determined to compose in this style!

... WONDERFUL! COUNSELLOR! EVERLASTING FATHER! ...



With the money he earned from writing and performing his works in England, Haydn was able to settle down to live peacefully for the rest of his life in a little cottage just outside Vienna. Here he took as his pupil a young musician named Beethoven...

Oh...I'm sorry...

I am working on what I pray will be a grand oratorio, called "THE CREATION", written to words from Genesis! Each day before beginning, I kneel down and pray for divine guidance as I write!



No, no, Ludwig, come in, come in!

Two years later, "Papa Haydn", as he was affectionately known by his friends, had still not completed the great work!

Papa Haydn, we urge you to please bring this great work to a close!



Every orchestra in Europe is waiting with bated breath for you to publish it!

No, my dear friends, I cannot make haste! I am not just writing for the present! I am writing for all time!

Indeed, the "CREATION" was to take its place along with Handel's "MESSIAH" and Bach's "ST. MATTHEW'S PASSION" as being one of the great religious oratorios of all time!

Old Papa Haydn's sight was now beginning to fail, and he spent the rest of his days composing charming little songs and inviting friends round to his cottage in the evenings to listen to the many stories he had to tell of his long life! One time somebody commented to him...

Papa Haydn, I must say that I have never heard anyone compose such cheerful church music as yours!



In 1809 the French armies invaded Austria...

BANG!
BANG!



God will protect us!

To which the great composer replied...

When I think upon God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap, as it were, from my pen! And since God has given me a cheerful heart, I serve Him with a cheerful spirit!



The fighting's very close, Sir! That last shot came in our garden...

Open up in the name of France! —Or we'll break down this door!



Shhhh! Please! This is the house of the composer, Joseph Haydn...He is sick in bed and dying...



Forgive me!...I didn't know! May I please be allowed to come in?

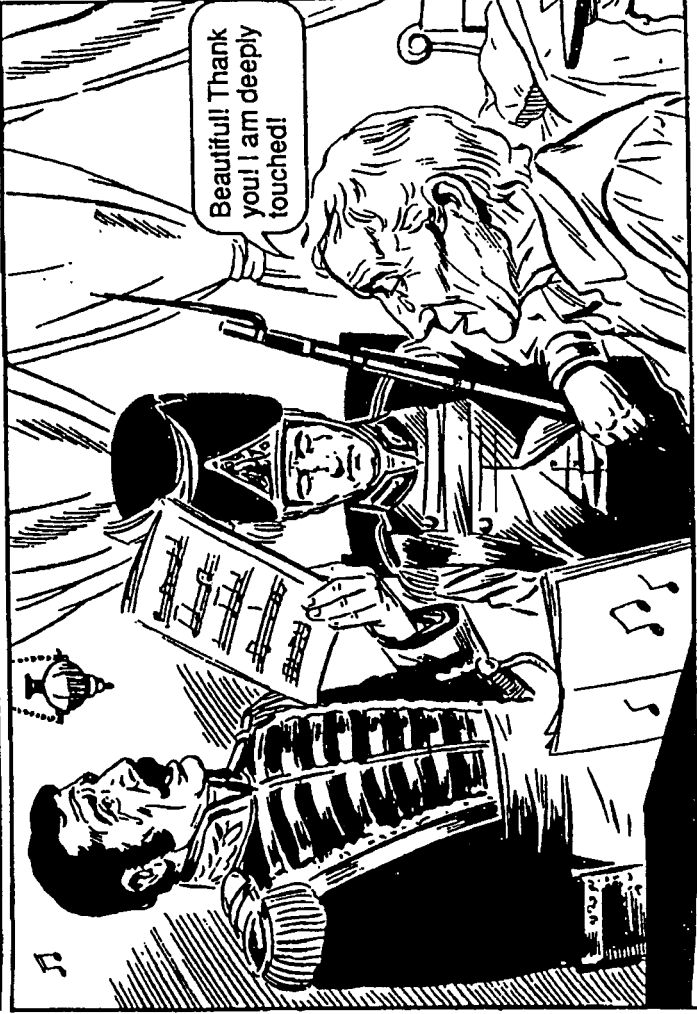
In death, Haydn was honoured even by the enemy...

Please, to show you that you and the beautiful music that God has inspired you to create are universally loved, I would like to sing you an aria* from "THE CREATION".

(* An aria is a vocal solo in an oratorio, opera or other musical work.)



Thank you! And I would be pleased to accompany you! Would you mind carrying me to the piano?



Beautiful! Thank you! I am deeply touched!

The French officer was the great composer's last visitor. He died a few days later at the ripe old age of 77!

So that's it for this week! This is Walter Damrosch and the New York Symphony Orchestra signing off! Please join us at the same time next week for another "Music Appreciation Hour"! Goodbye!

Thank You Jesus!
Terrific! That was so interesting! I'm going to ask Mom and Dad to actually take me to see an orchestra in action!



So that's how I first learned a little about classical music and composers when I was your age!

I'd like to listen to a lot more classical music, Grandpa!



That's wonderful, Honey! Music can be a blessing, and yet it can also be so dangerous! That's why it's so important to listen to the right kind of music!

You have to be careful what pieces you listen to, because not all classical music is necessarily inspired by the Lord! It all depends on whose channel the composers were tuned into, and according to their mood. Whether they were in a believing, faithful mood, and listening to the Lord's Spirit...

Thank You Lord for this wonderful life and the great gift You have given me! I shall call this piece an "ODE" TO JOY!"



("Ode": A poem intended to be sung by a chorus.)

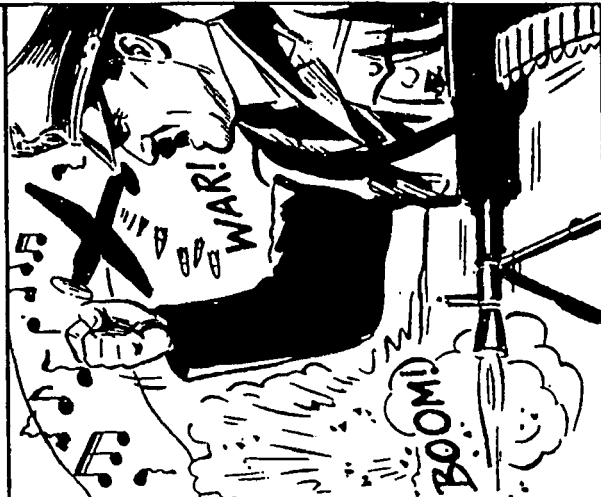
...Or whether they were in a doubting, discouraged mood and listening to the Devil!



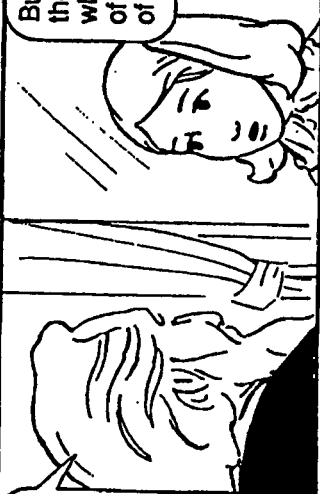
This piece expresses the torment and frustration I feel at becoming deaf!

Richard Wagner is another very famous composer. His music was inspired too! But I'm afraid that most of the time his music was inspired by the Devil! He was getting the Devil's message, and if the listeners tune in, they get the message too!

Hitler was absolutely hypnotised by Wagner's music! He was like a receiver for the Devil's message in Wagner's music! He added the words and the bombs and the bullets to the tune and brought Hell on Earth!



Whereas a lot of the music of such wonderful spiritual men and believers like Handel, Mozart, Bach, Haydn and some others was definitely inspired by the Lord!



But how can we know the difference between which classical music is of the Lord, and which is of the Devil?

Well, it's like the little boy said when the church elder was scoffing* at his faith...

Oh, how could you know the Lord when you're such a little lad! You're too young to know the difference between the Voice of the Lord and the voice of the Devil! How are you going to know the difference?



Well, Sir, it's easy!...

...if the voice tells me to do something good, then I know it's God!



But if it tells me to do something bad, then I know it's the Devil!

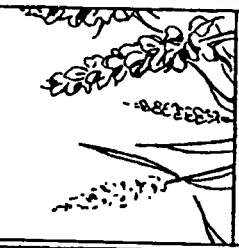
And that's exactly the way it is with music! What does it tell you? How does it make you feel? Is it beautiful or ugly? What effect does it have on your own spirit? I asked one of the boys one time to weed the garden...

Umm...I'm not sure how I'm going to be able to tell the difference between the weeds and the flowers?

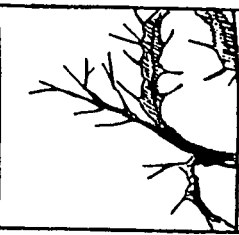


Well, son, I'm not familiar with the flowers of this place either and I don't know which is which, so we'll just go by what it looks like!

If it's pretty or beautiful, we'll leave it alone and let it grow, even if it's a weed!



But if it looks ugly and sticky and has an ugly effect on you, then cut it down!

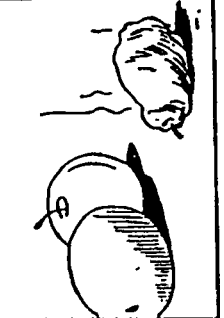


God gives you enough sense by His Spirit to know the difference between...

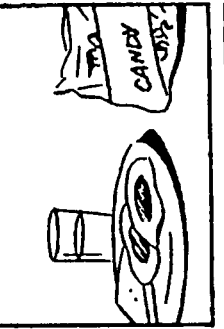
...flowers and weeds..



...good fruit or bad..



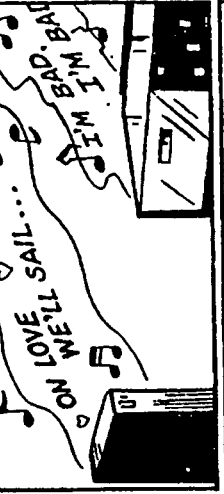
...good food or poison..



...good literature or bad literature..



...good music or bad music.



You can tell by whether its effects and fruits are good or bad, good or evil. So how do you tell the difference between good and bad music? Sweet Heavenly music lifts you up into Heavenly spheres, transports your spirit to Heavenly places and makes you want to be good and do good and inspire you to higher things! Whether it's a simple little lullaby...

...A precious little love song!



I... LOVE THE LORD...

...A happy little dancing song like our children sing and dance to!

MOUNTAIN!...YES CHILDREN!...WE'RE MOUNTAIN...



...Even a sweet sad song that moves us and touches our hearts with sympathy, love and compassion and causes us to weep with those that weep!



YOU SAY YOU LOVE MY JESUS

...Or the most complicated and intricately beautiful and inspiring symphonies of those mighty composers. It is God-inspired music!



Whereas there are certain kinds of music that my heart, mind, spirit and even my physical body resist and rebel against, because its effects are so fiendish. Even some of that classical music is not beautiful. There's no refrain, no melody. It's just as noisy and discordant** as hard rock! Just so much bang, bang, bang, and noisy, noisy, noisy! (*Fiendish: Extremely wicked or cruel. Devilish.) (**Discordant: Harsh and lacking harmony.)

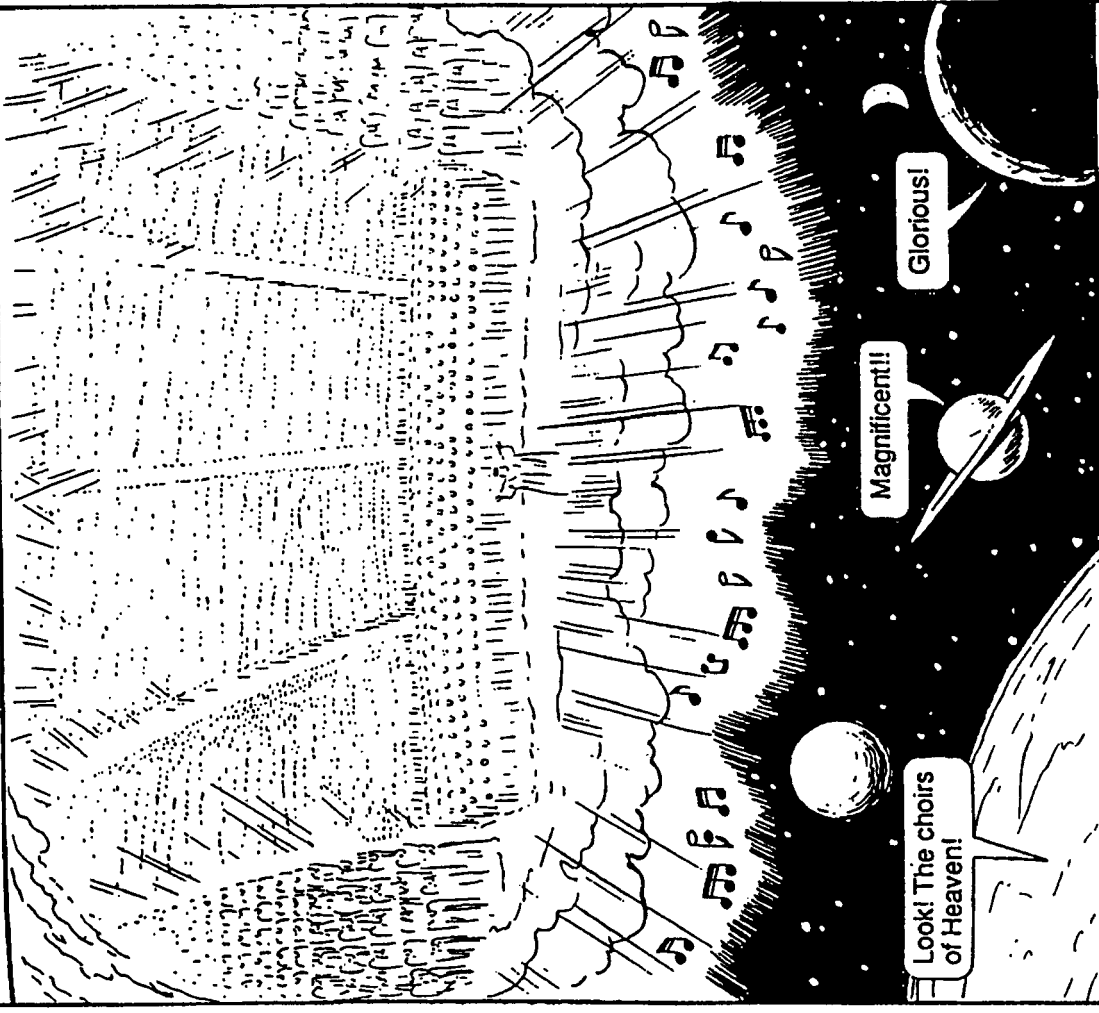


But other kinds of music just thrill and inspire me and lift me up into the heavens and put me into communication with the Lord!



The music of Johann Strauss!—Now this is what I call real music! Heavenly music! We're going to have that kind of entertainment in Heaven! Waiting, beautiful dancers, beautiful gowns, concerts, ballets, and balls!

Oh, there's going to be all kinds of music in Heaven! God has lots about choirs of Angels singing in the Bible! (See Job 38:7; Lk.2:8-14; Rev.5:11,12.) I believe we're going to have the greatest choirs, the greatest orchestras, the greatest music the World has ever known! I don't think the World has even heard music yet compared to what we're going to have There!



If Man can make the beautiful music that he has learned to make with his own hand-made instruments, just think what God can even do supernaturally!—And think how He can make us to sing Up There! We'll shake up the whole Universe with the praises of God!—The thunderous hymns of Heaven!—Shocking!—Thrilling!—Moving!—Praises of the Spirit!—The angelic choirs of Glory! There's going to be music in Heaven such as this World has never heard before! Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus! Praise God! Amen!

OTHER GREAT COMPOSERS

Antonio VIVALDI (1678-1741)



Vivaldi lived in Venice, Italy, where he was well-known as a violinist. He was a priest, and because of his vivid red hair he became known as "the red priest". He taught for most of his life at a music school for orphaned girls. As well as operas and church music, Vivaldi wrote over 600 concertos. His music greatly influenced Bach. His best known work is "THE FOUR SEASONS".

Giuseppe VERDI (1813-1901)

(Say: Gi-sep-ie.)



Italian opera composer, who was born the son of a poor innkeeper. Verdi's works stand among the greatest in the history of Italian opera. At the age of 25 he began composing opera. Among his many works are his 3 most famous, "RIGOLETTO", "IL TROVATORE" AND "LA TRAVIATA", which brought him international fame and remain among the most popular of all operas.

Gioacchino ROSSINI (1792-1868)

(Say: Ja-ko-mo.)



Rossini was an Italian composer who specialised in opera of all kinds, as well as religious music. Among his most famous musical scores are "WILLIAM TELL", "OTHELLO" and "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE". Many overtures and arias from these and his other operas are often played today.

Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

A German composer, and another child prodigy who made his first public appearance as a pianist when he was 9. He died when he was only 38, but wrote an unusual quantity of good music within his short lifetime.



Among his best known works are his "CHORAL SYMPHONY", "HYMNS OF PRAISE", the "OVERTURE" to William Shakespeare's "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM", which he wrote when only 17, and his magnificent "ELIJAH" and "ST. PAUL" oratorios. He was also a famous conductor. Few other composers have enjoyed so much public appreciation for their work within their own lifetime.

Franz SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

(Say: Shoeb-ert.)



An Austrian composer, who, like many great musicians, was a child prodigy. By the age of 17 he had already composed a wide range of music, including his famous "SYMPHONY IN D". He died of typhus at the young age of 30, after eating bad fish in an inn. He enjoyed very little public recognition during his lifetime, but has since become recognised as one of the greatest writers of songs and melodies that ever lived. Schubert composed at a terrific speed, sometimes composing as many as 8 songs in one day. During his short life he wrote more than a thousand songs, symphonies, & operas as well as religious music. Some of his songs are among the most famous in the history of music. These include "AVE MARIA", "WHO IS SYLVIA?", "SERENADE", "THE TROUT" and "HARK, HARK, THE LARK!" which was written on the back of a bill during a party in a tavern.

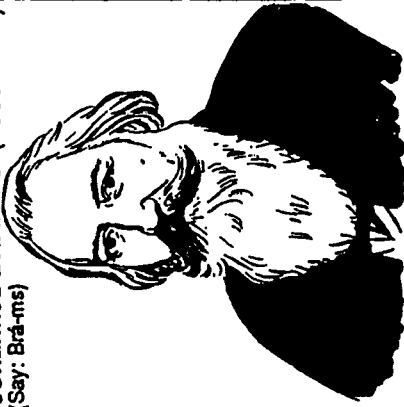
Richard WAGNER (1813-1883)



A famous German opera composer. His best known works include "THE FLYING DUTCHMAN", "TRISTAN AND ISOLDE", and "THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS". Wagner believed that all things German were great, and that his music could unify Germany culturally and politically. Wagner believed that his own genius and rightness was beyond question. His life was full of tragic incidents. Grandpa says of Wagner: "His music was a revival of paganism, and his music brought back the worship of the Devil in Germany, to whom Hitler was subservient," to the demon gods of the past. ("Under the control of.")

Johannes BRAHMS (1833-1897)

(Say: Bra-mis)



A German composer and pianist. Brahms was also a brilliant pianist who gave concerts to packed houses all over Europe. He wrote an enormous number of symphonies, piano concertos and other musical works. Best known are probably his "PIANO CONCERTOS NO.1 AND 2", which are wonderfully romantic. His violin concertos are said to be some of the greatest ever written.



Johann STRAUSS
(1825-1899)

There is no formal European dance that has been more adored than the waltz. The peak of its popularity was in 19th century Vienna, a city of fashionable and glamorous dances. Johann Strauss was the most famous of a whole family of Strauss musicians. Strauss wrote the world-famous "BLUE DANUBE", and became known as the "Waltz King". His other famous waltzes include, the "EMPEROR WALTZ", "TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS", and "THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS". He also wrote numerous operettas including, "THE BAT", "A NIGHT IN VENICE", and "THE GYPSY BARON".

Antonin DVORAK
(1841-1904)



(Say: Dvor-jak.)
A Czech composer born near Prague. He was a close friend of Brahms. His most famous work is his 9th symphony, "FROM THE NEW WORLD". Although the "New World" at that time was America, Grandpa says that the Lord was probably inspiring Dvorak to write this beautiful music about the New World of the Millennium and Space City! Dvorak's songs also won him great popularity. Some of the best known are 10 "BIBLICAL SONGS", and his 7 "GYPSY SONGS".

TIME-LINE CHART OF THE LIVES OF GREAT COMPOSERS

Composer	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950
VIVALDI		1678	1741				
BACH		1685	1750				
HANDEL		1685	1759				
HAYDN		1732	1809				
MOZART		1758	1791				
BEETHOVEN		1770	1827				
ROSSINI		1792	1868				
SCHUBERT		1797	1828				
MENDELSSOHN		1805	1847				
CHOPIN		1810	1849				
SCHUMANN		1810	1856				
LISZT		1811	1886				
WAGNER		1813	1893				
VERDI		1813	1901				
STRAUSS		1825	1899				
BRAMMS		1833	1897				
TCHAIKOVSKY		1840	1893				
DVORAK		1841	1904				
GRIEG		1843	1907				
DEBUSSEY		1862	1918				
RACHMANINOFF		1873	1943				

Peter Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY
(1840-1893)



One of the most famous of all Russian composers. He is best known for his ballet music, "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY", "NUTCRACKER SUITE" and "SWAN LAKE". These contain some of his loveliest music. Tchaikovsky had an unhappy life with a broken marriage. He died of cholera shortly after the performance of the "PATHETIQUE", a work which expressed the emotional and melancholy nature of his own life.

Frederic CHOPIN (1810-1849)
(Say: Show-pan.)



Polish composer and pianist. He is regarded as one of the great masters of piano music. He never wrote music for orchestra alone but his works include a number of pieces for piano and orchestra, two concertos, and more than 200 piano compositions that earned him fame as one of the World's leading composers. He was the only son of a French father and a Polish mother and was also a child prodigy, making his first public performance when he was eight and began composing soon after. Many of his works are done in a Polish dance rhythm. He spent the second half of his life in France where he died at the early age of 39.

Edvard GRIEG (1843-1907)



Grieg was born in Norway and is Scandinavia's best known composer. He liked to write music about the mountains and fjords. One of his best known works is the music he wrote for "PEER GYNT", the play by his friend, Henrik Ibsen, which contains "In the Hall of the Mountain King". He also produced a lot of other fine music, including his "PIANO CONCERTO IN A MINOR", which is a favourite with concert goers everywhere. ("Fjords: Long, narrow inlets from the sea between steep cliffs.")

Franz LISZT (1811-1886)



A Hungarian pianist, composer and teacher. He wrote many works for the piano and orchestra and is also remembered as the most famous pianist of the 1800's. By the time he was 11, he had been presented in many parts of Europe as a child prodigy at the piano. By the time he was 19 he had made triumphal tours throughout most of Europe as a concert pianist, and achieved tremendous success. In 1848, he retired to the German state of Weimar, where he was appointed court music conductor. Here he began to compose and made the city of Weimar the European headquarters for music. He is also remembered as the teacher and sponsor of most of the famous musicians of his time. His best known works are the "HUNGARIAN RHAPSODIES", the "HUNGARIAN FANTASY" and the "SONATA IN B MINOR".

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)



A German composer and pianist who, together with Chopin and Liszt, started what became known as romantic piano music. He began to study music when he was eight years old, and was soon trying to compose. His talent as a pianist developed early. His earliest compositions were piano pieces, such as the "BUTTERFLIES", "CARNIVAL" and various children's pieces. His wonderful songs rank with those of Franz Schubert and Johannes Brahms. They include songs from "POET'S LOVE" and "WOMAN'S LOVE AND LIFE". Schumann's only piano concerto is a favourite of concert audiences and his symphonies have never lost their popularity. He also wrote many articles about music and started the famous music magazine, "THE NEW MUSIC JOURNAL".

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)



He was one of the greatest French composers of the late 1800's. His many new ideas in music and his style of composing paved the way for the more modern music of the early 1900's. He began to study the piano at the age of 7 and travelled to Russia at the age of 19 where he was influenced by Russian folk and gypsy music as well as many Russian composers, including Tchaikovsky. At the age of 22 he won a prize for his work, "THE PRODIGAL SON". Regarded as his best work is the "QUARTET IN G MINOR", and his opera "PELLEAS-AND-MELISANDE" earned him worldwide fame. Some of his other works include, "THE CHILDREN'S CORNER", (written for his daughter), "FROLICS" and "THE SEA".

Sergey Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)



Russian composer, pianist and conductor, one of the best pianists of the 1900's. His compositions are considered the last of the Romantic era (the musical period of the 1700-1800's). His "PRELUDE" IN C SHARP MINOR and "PRELUDE IN G MINOR", both for piano, brought him fame at an early age. His works were influenced by Tchaikovsky and one of his early compositions, "ELEGIAC TRIO" was written in memory of Tchaikovsky. Other favourites with pianists are the "CONCERTO NO.2 IN C MINOR" and "CONCERTO NO.3 IN D MINOR". He fled from Russia during the Communist Revolution and later lived in exile in the United States.

(A short composition in a free style, usually for piano.)
(**Enforced or voluntary absence from one's native country.)

RECOMMENDED MOVIES ABOUT THE LIVES OF SOME GREAT COMPOSERS:

- "THE GREAT WALTZ"—About the life of Johann Strauss (A, OC...1)
- "SONG OF NORWAY"—Life story of Edvard Grieg (All...1)
- "SONG TO REMEMBER"—Life story of Frédéric Chopin (A, OC...2)
- "SONG WITHOUT END"—Life story of Franz Liszt (A, OC...2)