

Cultural Awareness Test for the Well-Rounded Musician by Steven Mark Kohn

This test reflects the interests of the author and is not intended to be the ultimate arbiter of anything. Some questions are admittedly easy, others not. There will be correct answers to some questions which the author was not aware of or did not list. This is just fine. (It is too labor-intensive to list every right answer. Every Beatle song?) Some questions will appear stupid or unimportant. This is fine too. Not all musical styles are covered here because the author is, admittedly, not interested in all musical styles. (Hence the lack of references to Hip Hop, Fife and Drum and marching band) But the author does believe that keeping one's eyes, ears and brain open is important to the general development of a creative artist. And it's fun.

1. In what key is Beethoven's Fifth Symphony?
2. How many symphonies did each of the following write? Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms.
3. Name 3 Wagner operas.
4. Name 2 classical pieces that are used in the soundtrack underscore of the Wizard of Oz.
5. How many years passed between the death of Beethoven and Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*?
6. Name two famous composers who died certifiably insane.
7. Whose music was used in the Broadway musical *Kismet*?
8. Name 3 important 20th century British composers.
9. Name at least two classical pieces that were used in the film *2001 A Space Odyssey*. Whose score was discarded in lieu of the classical music used?
10. Name 5 film composers. (no classical)
11. Name the Russian composers who comprise "The Mighty Five".
12. Name the French composers who comprise "Les Six". Which one was not French?
13. Name two ballets by each of the following: Stravinsky, Copland, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky
14. Under what dictator did Prokofiev and Shostakovitch labor?
15. With whom did Copland and many early 20th century American composers study?
16. How many keys are on a piano?
17. From the top down, name the instruments in a traditional orchestral score.
18. Name three instruments for which the terms Soprano, Alto and Tenor can apply.
19. Name two "impressionist" composers and three impressionist painters.
20. How old was Mozart when he died?
21. Who arranged and produced most of the Beatles albums?
22. How many piano sonatas did Beethoven write?
23. Whose music was used in the musical *Song of Norway*?
24. Name the country of origin of the following composers: Grieg, Sibelius, Albeniz, Dvorak, Glinka, Chopin, Bartok, Gottschalk.
25. Name four compositions by Mussorgsky.
26. Name two stage musicals with music by Leonard Bernstein.
27. Name at least one film score written by: Bernstein, Copland, Walton, Vaughan Williams, Corigliano.
28. What instrument did Paganini play? What famous pianist tried to emulate his bravura style?
29. Name three pieces used in Disney's original *Fantasia*. (title and composer)
30. What instruments did each of the following play: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Benny Goodman, Nat King Cole, Glenn Miller, Buddy Rich, Bill Clinton, Richard Nixon?
31. Name the Beatles, three of their album titles and five of their songs.
32. Name two musicals by each of the following: Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Kander and Ebb
33. Who wrote the music for *A Chorus Line*?
34. Name two songs from *Fiddler on the Roof*.
35. Name two symphonic compositions by George Gershwin.
36. Who wrote the music for the Hitchcock films *Psycho*, *North by Northwest* and *Vertigo*?
37. Who wrote the most famous music for the play *Peer Gynt*? Who wrote the play?
38. Name three famous composers who were known as astounding child prodigies.

39. Who was in the band The Traveling Wilburys?
40. Name two songs written by each of the following: Elton John, Billy Joel, Bob Dylan
41. What rock bands did the following solo artists emerge from: Peter Gabriel, Sting, Lionel Ritchie, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson.
42. Name three well-known 20th century American Operas.
43. Name three important 19th century composers of art song.
44. Who wrote the songs for the *Wizard of Oz*? Who wrote the score?
45. Who was the producer of the most successful movie musicals for MGM between 1939 and 1960?
46. Give the original name of one of the following: Judy Garland, Elton John, Bob Dylan
47. Who wrote the music for the majority of the classic Warner Brothers cartoons? Name five of the cartoon characters that appeared in them.
48. Who was the rock music arranger/producer who created the “wall of sound”?
49. How many symphonies did Mahler complete? Who completed his last one?
50. How many string quartets did Bartok write?
51. Name three important Broadway musical lyricists.
52. What was Cole Porter’s most successful stage musical? Irving Berlin’s?
53. Who portrayed George M. Cohan in the film *Yankee Doodle Dandy*?
54. What composer was shot to death by an American soldier at the end of World War II?
55. Who are the following? The Velvet Fog, The Divine Miss M, The Chairman of the Board, Godfather of Soul
56. Which is faster, Andante or Adagio?
57. Name three famous composers who did not live to the age of 40.
58. Who wrote *Three Places in New England*?
59. Name two songs by Stephen Foster.
60. Who was the “King of Ragtime”? Name one of his works.
61. Name the composer of each of the following: *Pierrot Lunaire*, *Ionization*, *Ballet Mechanique*, *Folio*, *4 minutes and 33 seconds*, *Sequenza #1*?
62. How many preludes and fugues are in Bach’s Well-tempered Clavier?
63. What does the indication “swing” mean in a jazz score?
64. If a B flat instrument plays a D, what note do we hear?
65. Name three famous composers who arranged folk songs.
66. Who conducted the premier of Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*? In what year?
67. Who was the most prominent American classical composer at the turn of the 20th century?
68. Name three important 20th century French composers.
69. What symphonic conductor has won the most Grammy awards?
70. Name a famous film or TV actor who was also a composer.
71. Name three compositions by Henry Mancini.
72. Who wrote the libretto for Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*?
73. What is the leading tone in C sharp major?
74. What piece did Messiaen write while a prisoner of the Nazis?
75. What is a click track?
76. What is the name of Beethoven’s only opera?
77. Who was Hitler’s favorite composer?
78. Name an important Canadian composer of serious music.
79. Who was Tchaikovsky’s patroness?
80. Name a piano suite by each of the following: Schumann, Debussy, Ravel.
81. Who wrote the opera *Carmen*?
82. For what instrument is Alto clef most commonly used?
83. Between which scale degrees do 1/2 steps occur in the Lydian mode?
84. Name two rock and roll artists who have been knighted by Queen Elizabeth.
85. Name two film musicals that have won the best picture Oscar.
86. Name one stage musical that has won the Pulitzer prize for drama.
87. Who was Wagner’s favorite composer?
88. Who wrote “If music be the food of love, play on”? Name the work in which it appears.

(some) ANSWERS

1. C minor
2. 104, 9, 41, 4
3. *Lohengrin, Tannhauser, Die Walkure, Das Reingold, Gotterdammerung, Tristan und Isolde, etc.*
4. Schumann's *Happy Farmer*, Mendelssohn's *Scherzo in E minor*, Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*.
5. 3
6. Robert Schumann, Hugo Wolf, Edward MacDowell
7. Alexander Borodin (He won a Tony for best score!)
8. Ralph Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, Gustav Holst, Peter Maxwell-Davies
9. Ligeti's *Atmospheres*, Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, Khatchaturian *Gayne*, J. Strauss *Blue Danube Waltz*. Alex North's score was discarded.
10. John Williams, Alan Sylvestri, James Horner, Jerry Goldsmith, Alfred Newman, Randy Newman, Thomas Newman, David Newman, Danny Elfman, Max Steiner, Erich Korngold, Bernard Herrmann, Bruce Broughton, Mark Shaiman, etc.
11. Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Cui, Balakirev
12. Milhaud, Poulenc, Tailleferre, Durey, Auric, Honneger. Honneger was Swiss.
13. Strav: *The Firebird, The Rite of Spring, Petrouchka*. Copland: *Billy the Kid, Appalachian Spring, Rodeo*. Prok: *Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella*. Tchaik: *The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty*.
14. Joseph Stalin
15. Nadia Boulanger
16. 88
17. Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horns, trumpets, trombones, tuba, (Insert perc, piano, harp) violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello, bass.
18. Saxophone, recorder, voice.
19. Debussy, Ravel, Ibert. Painters: Monet, Manet, Sisley, Pissarro, Degas, Renoir, etc.
20. 35
21. George Martin
22. 32
23. Edvard Grieg
24. Norway, Finland, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Poland, Hungary, America.
25. *Pictures at an Exhibition, Night on Bald Mountain, Boris Godunov, Songs and Dances of Death, Kovanshchina, The Nursey, etc.*
26. *West Side Story, On the Town, Wonderful Town, Candide*.
27. Bernstein: *On the Waterfront*, Copland: *The Red Pony, Our Town, Of Mice and Men*, Walton: *Henry V, Richard III, Spitfire*, Vaughan Williams: *The 49th Parallel*, Scott of the Antarctic, Corigliano: *Altered States, The Red Violin*.
28. Violin. Franz Liszt.
29. Beethoven: Sixth Symphony, Dukas: *Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Tchaikovsky: *Nutcracker Dances*, etc.
30. Trumpet, Piano, Sax, Clarinet, Piano, Trombone, Drums, Sax, Piano
31. John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr. Albums: *Hard Day's Night, Abbey Road, Magical Mystery Tour, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Let It Be*, etc. Songs too numerous to list.
32. R & H: *Oklahoma, The King and I, South Pacific, The Sound of Music*, etc. L & L: *Camelot, Brigadoon, My Fair Lady*, etc. Sondheim: *Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd, A Little Night Music, Company*, etc. Lloyd-Webber: *Jesus Christ Superstar, Cats, Evita, The Phantom of the Opera*, etc. K & E: *Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman*, etc.
33. Marvin Hamlisch
34. *Sunrise Sunset, Matchmaker, Tradition, Miracle of Miracles*, etc.
35. *Rhapsody in Blue, Concerto in F, American in Paris*, etc.
36. Bernard Herrmann.
37. Edvard Grieg, Henrik Ibsen.

38. Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saens, etc.
39. Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynn, Tom Petty, Roy Orbison.
40. Too numerous to list.
41. Genesis, The Police, The Commodores, The Supremes, Jackson Five.
42. *Porgy and Bess, The Crucible, Of Mice and Men, Susannah, Dead Man Walking, The Tender Land*, etc.
43. Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, etc.
44. Songs: Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg. Score: Herbert Stothart.
45. Arthur Freed.
46. Francis Gumm, Reginald Dwight, Robert Zimmerman.
47. Carl Stalling. Characters: Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Roadrunner, Coyote, Tweety, Sylvester, etc.
48. Phil Spector.
49. 9. Derek Cooke completed his tenth.
50. 6
51. Stephen Sondheim, Alan J. Lerner, Oscar Hammerstein II, Sheldon Harnick, Ira Gershwin, etc.
52. *Kiss Me, Kate. Annie Get Your Gun.*
53. James Cagney
54. Anton Webern
55. Mel Torme, Bette Midler, Frank Sinatra, James Brown
56. Andante.
57. Mozart, Schubert, Bizet, Gershwin.
58. Charles Ives
59. *Oh, Susannah, Old Folks at Home, Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair, Camptown Races, Beautiful Dreamer.*
60. Scott Joplin. *The Entertainer, Maple Leaf Rag, Easy Winners*, etc.
61. Arnold Schoenberg, Edgard Varese, George Antheil, Earle Brown, John Cage, Luciano Berio.
62. 48
63. Play the second eighth note like the third of a triplet.
64. C
65. Haydn, Beethoven, Britten, Vaughan Williams, Copland, etc.
66. Paul Whiteman. 1924.
67. Edward MacDowell
68. Milhaud, Poulenc, Messiaen, Boulez, etc.
69. Georg Solti (30 awards)
70. Charlie Chaplain, Jackie Gleason, Clint Eastwood
71. *Moon River, The Days of Wine and Roses, The Pink Panther, Peter Gunn*, etc.
72. Dubose Hayward
73. B sharp
74. *Quartet for the end of time*
75. An audible metronome click musicians listen to to play together. Conductors also use it to sync music to picture in film composing.
76. *Fidelio*
77. Wagner
78. I can't think of one either.
79. Nadezhda von Meck
80. Schumann: *Carnival, Scenes from Childhood*, etc. Debussy: *Pour le Piano, Suite Bergamasque*, etc. Ravel: *Gaspard de la Nuit, Tombeau de Couperin*, etc.
81. Bizet
82. Viola
83. 4/5 and 7/8.
84. Mick Jagger, Elton John, Paul McCartney.
85. *My Fair Lady, An American in Paris, Oliver, West Side Story*
86. *Of Thee I Sing, South Pacific, Fiorello!, How to Succeed in Business..., Sunday in the Park with George.*
87. Wagner.
88. William Shakespeare. *Twelfth Night*.

Scoring

Very subjective, but here's the scoop:

80 or more correct: You are a bright, clever, educated and informed person. Hats off to you.

70 or more correct: You can be proud and hold your head up high.

60 or more correct: No shame. Probably better than average.

50 or more correct: Borderline. Bone up on your reading and listening.

40 or more correct: Get to work. There's still time.

30 or more correct: Don't brag. You have some major gaps that need filling.

29 or less correct: Don't worry. There are still many satisfying career options open to you. Have you thought about Hotel management?