

# Composer Study Activity

**Objective:** To introduce the people (composers and performers) that Mr. and Mrs. Olson will share during their assembly program at your school. This is an excellent way to encourage group learning and cooperation.

**Supplies:**

1. A composer study chart on the bulletin board.
2. Composer data sheets for each student
3. Reference books on the composers or access to the Internet for research.
4. Pencils and markers.

**Activity:**

1. Divide students in to several groups according to the number of composers/performers you want to study.
2. Assign one composer/performer to each group.
3. Groups research and fill out their data sheets.
4. Gather the class together to fill out the study chart as a class.

<u>Composer</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Historic Event</u>	<u>Other Facts</u>
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	1756-1791	Germany	Operas, Concertos, religious music and piano music.	American Revolutionary War	Loved Math, Visited Paris, France. Started composing at 6.
Frederic Chopin	1810-1849	Born in Poland, Lived in Paris, France	All for the piano – etudes, waltzes, nocturnes, etc.	French Revolution	Was very sick most of his life. Always loved his native Poland.
Franz Schubert	1897-1828	Germany	Wrote over 1,000 pieces, 600 of which were songs.	Beethoven was alive	School Teacher. Beethoven was his hero. Died young.
Ludwig van Beethoven	1770-1827	Germany	Many pieces for piano, orchestra as well as a lot of other music	Napoleon conquered Europe.	Father was and alcoholic who beat him. Went deaf.
Gabriel Fauré	1845-1924	France	Songs and piano pieces	Lived after the US Civil War	Went deaf. And was inspired by paintings.
Paul Wittgenstein	1887-1961	Austria, USA	NOT a composer, a one-armed pianist	World War I	Was a soldier, and lost his right hand in a battle.
<b><u>EXTRA CREDIT</u></b>			<b><u>Composers not covered</u></b>	<b><u>in this Study Guide.</u></b>	
Sergei Prokofiev	1891-1953	Soviet Union	Many pieces for piano, operas and orchestra pieces.	World War I And World War II	He loved his home country, Russia.
Scott Joplin	1868-1911	United States	Opera Treemonisha, Maple Leaf Rag, "King of Ragtime"	Lived after the Civil War	Was a famous African-American Composer.
Johannes Brahms	1833-1897	Germany	Piano pieces, songs, Symphonies	Was a young man at the time of the US Civil War	Famous pianist who also idolized Beethoven.

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**Composer Data Sheet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Born: \_\_\_\_\_

Died: \_\_\_\_\_

Lived in what Country? \_\_\_\_\_

Pieces composed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Important historical events at the time the composer was alive:

\_\_\_\_\_

Other important facts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_