

Hector Berlioz

December 11, 1803 – March 8, 1869

Hector Berlioz was a French composer during the Romantic period. The eldest of six children, Berlioz was born in a southeastern French commune. He was taught at home by his father, who was a respected doctor, and learned a variety of subjects: literature, Latin, geography, and music. His father wanted him to go into the medical field, and so eventually Berlioz moved to Paris and entered the School of Medicine at the University.

Berlioz, however, did not enjoy medical school. During his time in Paris, his father had given him an allowance so he could freely enjoy the city. One of Berlioz's first stops was the Opera, which he visited several times and inspired him to pursue music.

A few years later, in 1823, Berlioz first wrote a musical critique for the press, and after graduating medical school in 1824, he composed *Messe solennelle*.

In 1826, Berlioz became a student at the Paris Conservatoire, a musical conservatory where students studied the fine arts: music, dance, and theatre. Berlioz was most active as a composer and conductor, but he enjoyed theater and was enraptured after attending a local performance of *Hamlet* by Shakespeare, despite not knowing English at the time. Shakespeare continued to influence him, and several of Berlioz's later works were inspired by the works of Shakespeare, such as *Romeo and Juliet*.

After several years of protest, Berlioz's parents finally assented to his career change from medicine because he had proven his success as a musician. However, he didn't become wealthy from his music, as some thought his compositions were strange due to their unusual style. He moved to Rome in the 1830s for a brief time before eventually moving back to Paris.

Later in his life, Berlioz traveled around Europe, including Germany, Austria, Russia, and England. He gained more recognition for his musical style and compositions in Germany than in France and became an example of "a prophet who is without honor in his own country." In 1869, Berlioz passed away in Paris at 65 years old. Though his musical style was controversial in his lifetime, people have gained a greater appreciation for his compositions in recent years, and he is now widely regarded for his contributions to the world of music.

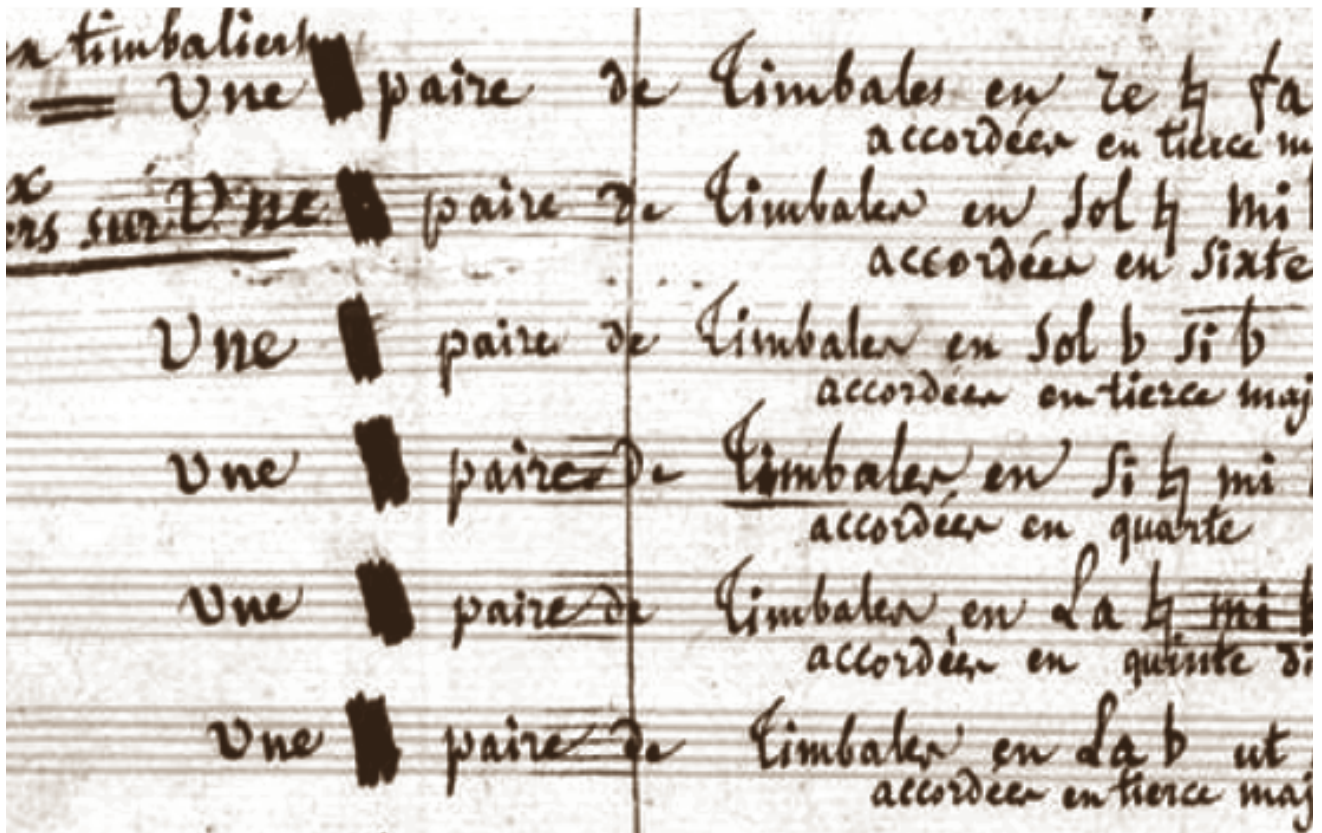
Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Roméo et Juliette

Week 2 - Le Carnaval Romain

Week 3 - Symphonie fantastique

Week 4 - La mort d'Ophélie



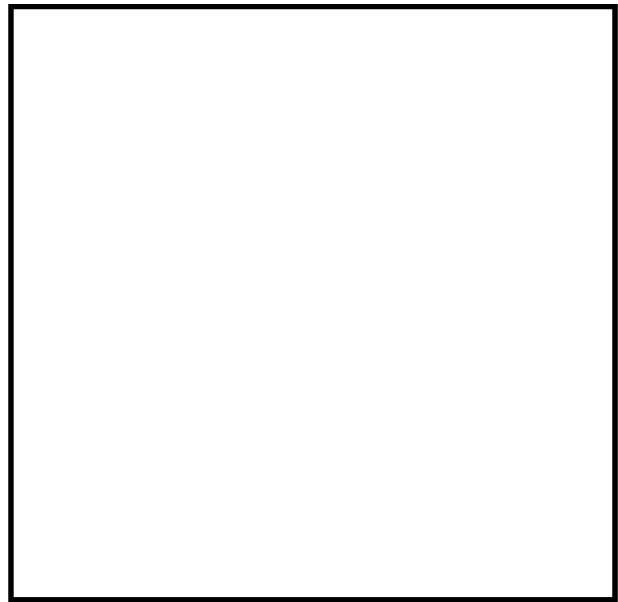
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:
