



# ***The Living Composer Project***

## **Worksheet 1**

When we think of the term “composer,” we usually think of someone like Beethoven or Mozart—a person who lived hundreds of years ago and wrote sonatas and symphonies. However, have you ever wondered about the composer who wrote the music in your piano method book, or the composer who wrote the music for your favorite movie?

There are composers living and working today that are producing new music all the time. These composers write much of the music you find in your piano books, as well as music for concerts, movies, video games, TV shows—just to name a few! Chances are, if you have listened to music today, you have heard something written by a living composer.

This worksheet will help you to discover the living composers creating the music you enjoy! Your teacher will help you to find the answers to the following questions:

1. Look through your sheet music. Was any of the music you have played recently written by a living composer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Make a list of your favorite movies, TV shows, and/or video games. Who writes the music for them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are your favorite bands/singers? Who writes their songs?



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## **Worksheet 2**

Now it is time to learn even more about two of your favorite composers! Write the names of your two composers below, and then research the answers to the following questions:

**Composer # 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**What types of music does this composer write?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What are this composer's most famous pieces?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Where does this composer live?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What other information can you find out about this composer (age, hobbies, etc.)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Composer # 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**What types of music does this composer write?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What are this composer's most famous pieces?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Where does this composer live?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What other information can you find out about this composer (age, hobbies, etc.)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## **Worksheet 3**

Now that you have learned a bit more about a couple of living composers, it is time to explore some music! In this worksheet you will choose one composer to explore. You will play two (or more) pieces by this composer, as well as listen to some of his or her most famous works.

**My composer is** \_\_\_\_\_

**The pieces I have played by this composer are:**

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**I have also listened to these pieces:**

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**My favorite piece to play by this composer is:**

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## **Worksheet 4**

You have learned quite a bit about your chosen composer! Now, it is time to introduce yourself!

Complete the following letter to your composer (or create your own if you prefer). Then, your teacher will help you to send it to him or her. Most composers can be contacted through their websites, or through their publishers—and they are happy to hear from people who enjoy their music!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and I

have been playing the piano for \_\_\_\_\_.

My teacher has been helping me to learn about living composers, and I have been learning your

piece \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite thing about your music is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

One question I have about your music is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_