

# ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Youth & Family Concert 2025

Let's learn about the composers!



### Johann Sebastian Bach

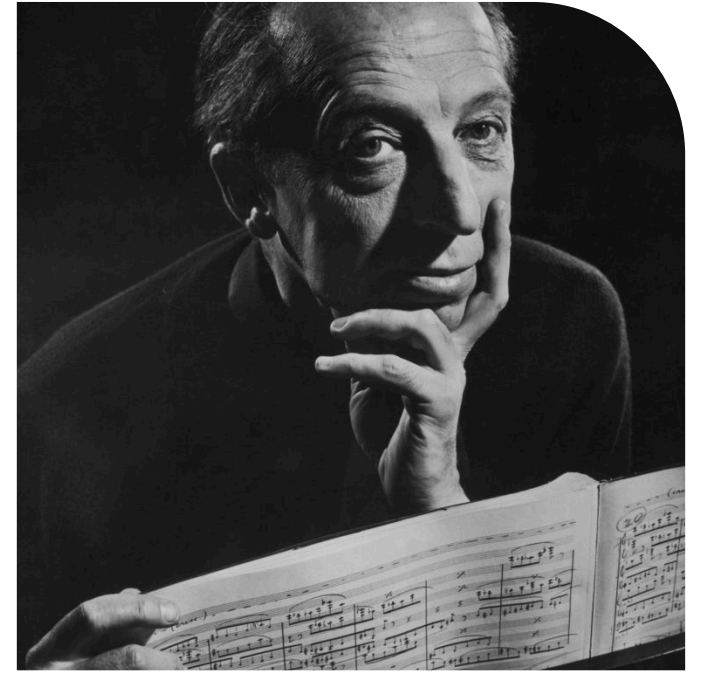
1. Johann Sebastian Bach was born March 31, 1685 in Eisenach, Thuringia, Germany.
2. His father, Johann Ambrosius Bach was a 7th generation musician, and carried on the tradition by teaching him how to play the violin.
3. His older brother Johann Christoph Bach taught him organ.
4. He held a position as court organist in Weimer, in 1708 for Duke Wilhelm Ernst. It was here he composed his very famous Toccata in D Minor.
5. Bach wrote the majority of his instrumental works during the Koethen period.
6. In 1723, he became the choir leader for two churches in Leipzig, Germany, in addition to teaching music classes and giving private lessons. Most of his choral music was composed here.
7. After struggling with blindness and a failed surgery on his eyesight, Bach suffered a stroke and died in Leipzig, July 28, 1750. He was 65 years old.
8. Johann Sebastian Bach is considered the quintessential composer of the Baroque era, and one of the most important figures in classical music in general. His complex musical style was nearly lost in history but gratefully it survives to be studied and enjoyed today.
9. Other famous works include Tse Brandenburg Concertos, Well-Tempered Clavier and Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring.

In the words of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897),  
"Study Bach: there you will find everything."



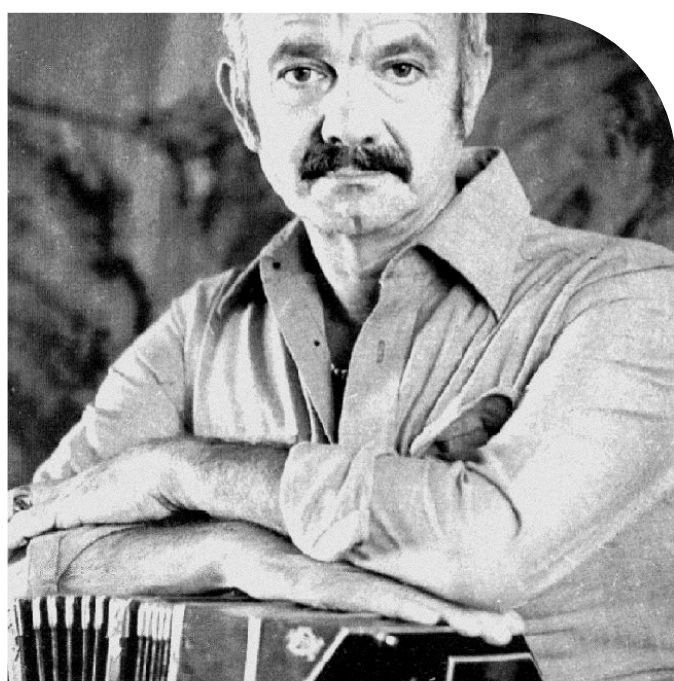
### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1. Born in Salzburg, Austria, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is regarded as one of the greatest musical geniuses.
2. Mozart was a child prodigy, making up music at the age of 5 and carrying out in front of royalty and aristocracy by the age of six.
3. He composed more than 600 works, consisting of operas, symphonies, chamber music, and piano pieces.
4. The man was a master of many musical genres and is credited with developing the modern-day piano concerto.
5. He was a knowledgeable violinist, but he chose playing the piano, which he believed was a more flexible instrument.
6. In spite of his extraordinary talent, Mozart struggled financially for most of his life and died in poverty at the age of 35.
7. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed making lively jokes and puns, even in his serious musical compositions.
8. Mozart had a family pet starling that he taught to sing the style from one of his piano concertos.



### Aaron Copland

1. Copland was an American composer, conductor, and music educator, widely regarded as one of the most important figures in American classical music.
2. He was born on November 14, 1900, in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in a Jewish family. His parents were Russian immigrants.
3. He began taking piano lessons at the age of 7 and started composing by age 15!
4. He taught at the Berkshire Music Center (now the Tanglewood Music Center) and the New School for Social Research in New York City, and wrote several influential books on music, including "What to Listen for in Music" and "Music and Imagination."
5. Copland received numerous awards and honors during his lifetime, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the National Medal of Arts.
6. Copland is known for his distinctly American style of classical music, characterized by his influences from jazz and American folk music.
7. Copland taught at the New School for Social Research and at Harvard University.
8. He was a vegetarian and was involved in animal rights activism.
9. He was a skilled pianist and often performed his own works in concert.
10. His most famous works include Piano Variations (1930), The Dance Symphony (1930), El Salon Mexico (1935), A Lincoln Portrait (1942) and Fanfare for the Common Man (1942). Copland later composed the music to Martha Graham's 1944 dance Appalachian Spring.
11. He died on December 2, 1990, at the age of 90.



### Astor Piazzolla

1. Astor Piazzolla was born in Mar del Plata in Argentina. His parents were Italian immigrants. He and his family moved to New York City in 1925.
2. When he was at home, he had to take care himself. His parents did not have much time for both had the long working hours. He would love to listen to the tango orchestra of Carlos Gardel and Julio de Caro. When he was at early age, he also listened to Bach.
3. He started to play bandoneon when his father saw a bandoneon in a New York Pawn shop in 1929.
4. His first tango was La Acting that he created it in 1932.
5. His works revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style termed nuevo tango, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music.
6. He later lived in Buenos Aires, and he studied in Paris for a while.
7. In 1975 he set up his Electronic Octet an octet made up of bandoneon, electric piano and/or acoustic piano, organ, guitar, electric bass, drums, synthesizer and violin.
8. In 1978 he formed his second Quintet, with which he would tour the world for 11 years, and which would make him world-renowned. He also returned to writing chamber music and symphonic works.
9. Piazzolla, forever known as "Tango's Modern Master," died in 1992.



### Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1. You may already know Tchaikovsky without realizing it! Have you ever seen Disney's Sleeping Beauty? The music in the film is from Tchaikovsky's Russian ballet The Sleeping Beauty, written in 1889. It is one of the only Disney films that features classical music.
2. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Kamsko Votkinsk, Russia on May 7, 1840. He enjoyed music from a young age but was pushed in a different direction by his parents.
3. He is known as "the first famous Russian composer!"
4. He composed during the "Romantic era" of classical music.
5. He began taking piano lessons when he was five years old. He was a quick-learning young music student, and it's said that in only three years, he'd learned music better than his piano teacher!
6. Tchaikovsky really looked up to Mozart. He first heard Mozart's music as a child, and it moved him to tears.
7. He attended the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, and later was offered a job as a Professor of Music Theory at Moscow Conservatory in 1865.
8. Some famous works include the ballets Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker, as well as the 1812 Overture!
9. Tchaikovsky died at the age of 53 in 1893, and it's a bit of a mystery to this day.