



2017-2018 UIL Music Memory Study Guide

Study the terms, definitions, and information about the composers and the selections below. Questions for the Multiple Choice portion of the test will be drawn from information on this document.

A cappella ("in chapel style" in Italian): performed without instrumental accompaniment.

Accent: to emphasize, make stronger.

Aida: an Arabic female name that means "visitor" or "returning." In Verdi's opera, the character of Aida is a slave from Ethiopia.

Alto: low female singing voice.

Aria ("air" in Italian): an operatic song, for one voice, often sung with an orchestra.

Arietta ("little aria" in Italian): a short aria.

Articulation: the way the notes are performed (staccato: detached: notes are separated; legato: smooth and connected).

Augmentation: a compositional technique that involves making the music longer by stretching it out (i.e., doubling the rhythm values).

Ballet: a story told through music and dancing, performed on a stage with costumes, sets, and lighting.

Bass: low male singing voice.

Basso continuo: a type of Baroque accompaniment in which one or more instruments play the bass line and chords. Frequently the harpsichord improvises chords over the cello's bass line.

Bergamask dance: an awkward, clumsy, rustic peasant dance that comes from Bergamo, Italy.

Cake walk: a stylized walking/dance contest to ragtime music. The prize is a cake.

Chamber orchestra: a few musicians who play in a room (chamber) or small hall.

Choir: a large group of singers associated with the church (sacred). The voices of an adult choir include soprano (S), alto (A), tenor (T), and bass (B).

Coda ("tail"): ending of a piece of music.

Coloratura ("coloring" in Italian): elaborate ornamentation of a melody.

Coloratura soprano: type of operatic soprano voice with a high upper range that is capable of agile runs, leaps, trills, and vocal coloratura.

Concerto: a composition, usually in three parts or movements, for solo instrument(s) and orchestra.

Development: second section of the sonata form in which themes are explored and developed, through several different keys, with some new material added.

Dynamics: the volume (loudness or softness) of the sound.

Exposition: first section of the sonata form in which all the main themes are presented: first theme in home key; contrasting theme in a related key; **codetta** ("little tail") finishes section in key of second theme. Section may be repeated.

Fantasia ("fantasy" or "fancy"): an improvisational composition, usually for an instrumental soloist.

Finale: the ending of a piece of non-vocal classical music which has several movements.

Folk song: a song that is not written down, but is passed on orally from person to person. Usually the composer of a folk song is unknown.

Fugue: a musical composition for a definite number of parts or voices, in which the subject is announced in one voice, and then imitated and developed in each of the other parts.

Gentilhombre: "gentleman" in Spanish.

Golliwogg: a rag doll popular in the early 1900s.

Incidental music: background music composed to go with the action or speaking parts of a drama.

Infernal: fiendish, diabolical, awful.

Kyrie: portion of the mass in which the faithful praise the Lord and ask for mercy.

Leitmotif ("leading motif" in German): a short musical phrase associated with a character, place, idea, or feeling.

Libretto: contains all the words and stage directions for an opera.

March: a piece of music with a strong regular rhythm, written for marching to and often performed by a military band.

Military band: the English designation for full band instrumentation as opposed to a brass band.

Missa ("mass" in Latin): a Roman Catholic worship service. Also, a sacred composition that sets the portions of the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church to music.

Morris Dance: folk dance performed in rural England by groups of specially chosen and trained men.

Morse code: a series of long and short elements (dots, dashes, dits, and dahs) that represent letters and numbers. It was used to send telegraph messages.

Motet: in Mozart's time, a form of church music written in Latin for solo voice. In Palestrina's time, a choral composition with a sacred text.

Motif: a short succession of notes producing a single impression.

Musical prodigy: a child (under age 12) who displays a talent in music on the same level as a skilled adult musician.

Musical theme: first main melody in a musical composition.

Opera: a story told completely through music. The characters sing with an orchestra and act out the story on a stage with costumes, scenery, props, and choreography.

Opera chorus: a group of singers that sings the parts of the townspeople or other special groups of characters in an opera. The chorus is made up of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses and those parts are often divided.

Ophicleide (aw-fih-KLAH-EED): a keyed brass instrument with long tubing that bends back on itself.

Orchestration: writing music for an orchestra, or adapting music written for one instrument so that it can be played by an orchestra.

Ornamentation: the decoration of a melody, either by adding notes or by modifying rhythms, to make it more interesting or pleasing.

Overture: an orchestral introduction to a longer work, or a similar piece that can stand alone. When it introduces an opera, an overture prepares the audience for the music to come.

Parody mass: a mass based on already-existing music.

Piano roll: a roll of paper with holes in it. This paper is fed into a **player piano**, which reads the roll and plays itself.

Prairie: a large, mostly flat area of land in North America that has few trees and is covered in grasses.

Program music: instrumental music that describes a story or a sequence of images.

Ragtime: a style of early jazz music composed for the piano, with a bouncy, syncopated melody over a steady march-like bass line; called "ragtime" at first because it sounded as ragged as a torn piece of cloth. A piece of ragtime music is called a "**rag**."

Recapitulation: third section of the sonata form in which themes of the exposition are restated, but stay in the home key.

Ricercare (“to search out”): a type 17th century fugue that is serious in character and uses long note values in the subject.

Riley Ballad: a type of song/story where a man goes off to sea, war, or adventuring, and then returns in disguise to see if his sweetheart has remained faithful. The lady-love scorns him, saying she will wait for her love to return. He then reveals his identity and they live happily ever after.

Ritornello (“return” in Italian): a recurring section of music, usually played by the chamber orchestra, that alternates with different contrasting sections.

Scherzino (“little scherzo” in Italian): a lively, light-hearted movement.

Scherzo (“joke” in Italian): often the third movement in a symphony, in 3/4 time, usually quick and light-hearted. It is sometimes played with a trio, followed by a repeat of the scherzo.

Sforzando (*subito forzando*): a sudden forceful accent abbreviated *sfz.*

Solo: music for one performer.

Sonata form: musical form established by the great Classical composers Haydn (one of Beethoven’s teachers) and Mozart. Also called “sonata-allegro form” because the tempo is frequently fast, and “first movement form” because it is typically used in the first movement of multi-movement pieces, such as the symphony, concerto, and string quartet. The sonata form can be used in subsequent movements as well – particularly the final movement. Its sections include: exposition, development, recapitulation, and coda.

Soprano: high female singing voice.

Suite: a musical form made up of a collection of short pieces.

Symphony: a musical composition in three or more sections or movements for orchestra.

Syncopation: a rhythm where important tones begin on weak beats or weak parts of beats, giving an “off-balance” feeling to the music.

Tempo: the speed of the beat.

Tenor: high male singing voice.

Through-composed: music that is relatively continuous, non-sectional, and/or non-repetitive.

Timbre: the quality of a sound that distinguishes it from other sounds.

Tone poem: a composition for orchestra that is based on a story or folk tale. Also known as a **symphonic poem**.

Tutti (“all” in Italian): music for the whole orchestra.

Variation: a technique where music is repeated with alterations to the melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, and texture.

Villano: instrumental music for a 17th century village peasant dance. The dance is accompanied by hand clapping, using alternating hands to slap the feet or the floor, and uses graceful turns, high leaps, landing with feet wide apart, and, while sitting on the ground, raising one foot at a time to the beat of the music.

Viola: a stringed instrument, member of the violin family. Larger than a violin and smaller than a cello. Strings are played with a bow or plucked by the fingers. Plays mostly in alto clef. The viola is known as the “composer’s instrument.”

Watercolor: a painting method in which the paints are made of pigments suspended in a water-based solution. Watercolor refers to both the medium and the resulting artwork

Bach

- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), German Baroque composer. One of the “Three B’s” (Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms).
- Had 20 children. 4 were composers.
- Better known as a virtuoso organist than a composer in his time.
- Today he is considered to be the greatest composer of all time.

Beethoven

- Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), German Classical/Romantic composer. One of the “Three B’s” (Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms).
- Virtuoso pianist.
- Gradually became deaf (began to lose his hearing in 1796; completely deaf in 1818).
- Composer of 9 famous symphonies. One of the most famous and influential composers in music history.

Debussy

- Claude Debussy (1862-1918), 20th century French composer.
- Wrote about music under the pen name “Monsieur Croche” (Mr. Quarter Note).
- Considered to be the greatest French composer, one of the most influential composers for piano, and one of the “Fathers of Modern Music.”

Gould

- Morton Gould (1913-1996), 20th century American composer and conductor.
- Child prodigy. Published his first piece at age 6.

- Worked in vaudeville, played piano for silent movies and radio, recorded piano rolls, and was a conductor on the radio.
- Used jazz, blues, gospel, country and western, and folk music in his compositions.

Gounod

- Charles François Gounod (1818-1893), French Romantic composer.
- Known for his opera, **Faust**, and for his melody that goes with Bach's C Major Prelude: the Bach/Gounod version of "Ave Maria."

Holst

- Gustav Holst (1874-1934), 20th century English composer.
- Played trombone professionally.
- Worked as an arranger, teacher, and conductor.
- Famous for his symphonic suite, **The Planets**.
- Interested in English folk music, and composed many pieces based on folk tunes.

Joplin

- Scott Joplin (1868-1917), early 20th century American composer.
- Born near Texarkana, Texas. Left home as a teenager and was able to support himself by playing the piano.
- Ragtime's greatest composer. Known as the "King of Ragtime."
- Awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for his "contributions to American music."

Mendelssohn

- Felix Mendelssohn (1805-1847), German Romantic composer and conductor.
- Musical prodigy.
- Composed the famous "Wedding March" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."
- Responsible for the rediscovery and revival of Bach's music.
- Brilliant conductor and one of the first to master the use of the baton.

Mozart

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), Austrian Classical composer.
- Child prodigy. Considered a musical genius his whole life.
- Traveled extensively with his sister around Europe performing for royalty.
- One of the most important classical composers in history.

Mussorgsky

- Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881), Russian Romantic composer. Member of the Russian "Five."
- Never studied music composition in school.
- Composed part time. Was a member of the Russian Imperial Guard. Worked at several civil service jobs.

Palestrina

- Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594), Italian Renaissance composer.
- Musical director and official composer for the choir at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Official title: Master of Music at the Vatican Basilica.

- Most famous 16th century Roman composer. Influenced development of Roman Catholic Church music. Composed only choral music.

Rodrigo

- Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999), 20th century Spanish composer.
- Virtuoso pianist.
- Nearly blind from the age of 3 from diphtheria. Totally blind in 1948 due to glaucoma. Used a special machine to write music in Braille, and later dictated the music to a copyist.
- His 26 works for the guitar established it as a concert instrument.
- One of Spain's greatest composers. Raised to the nobility by King Juan Carlos I with the title "Marqués de los jardines de Aranjuez."

Saint-Saëns

- Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), French Romantic composer.
- Musical prodigy. Composed songs and piano pieces by the age of 3.
- Played organ at Gounod's funeral.

R. Strauss

- Richard Strauss (1864-1949), German Romantic composer.
- Musical prodigy. Son of a famous French horn player.
- Composed tone poems, operas, and songs. Famous as a conductor.
- Strauss composed the music (**Alpine Symphony**) that is on the first CD to be commercially released (1983).

Stravinsky

- Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971), 20th century Russian composer and conductor.
- His father was a famous Russian opera singer.
- Studied privately with Rimsky-Korsakov, one of the Russian "Five."
- Composed in a sound-proof room. No one was allowed in when his door was closed.
- Became a U.S. citizen in 1945. Lived in California. Died in New York City.

Telemann

- Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767), German Baroque composer.
- Taught himself to play violin, organ, zither, harpsichord, recorder, flute, oboe, *chalumeau* (early clarinet), cello, string bass, trombone, and *calchedon* (flute).
- Composed 3,000+ pieces of music for church and court. Published and sold his music himself.
- Famous in his time. Friend of Bach and Handel.

Verdi

- Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), Italian Romantic composer and conductor.
- Devoted his life to opera. Composed 28 operas.
- Senator in the Italian National Parliament.
- Popular during his lifetime and remains so today.

Wagner

- Richard Wagner (1813-1883), German Romantic composer.
- Also known as a conductor and theater director.

- Famous for his operas, which he called “music dramas.”
- Wrote the libretto as well as the music for all his operas.

Welcher

- Dan Welcher (born in 1948), contemporary American composer.
- Played bassoon professionally.
- Composed over 100 works in many genres (for piano, voice, choir, orchestra, concert band, chamber music, and opera).
- Professor of composition (University of Texas, Austin). Conductor. Hosted a weekly radio series about composition for kids. Travels widely to conduct and teach.
- One of the most-played composers of his generation. Lives in Bastrop, Texas.

Bach: Concerto for 2 Violins in d minor, “Double”

- Composed for 2 solo violins and chamber orchestra: 2 violins, viola, cello, harpsichord.
- The form is theme (ritornello) alternates with passages for solo violin.
- This concerto is also known as the "Double" Violin Concerto or "Bach's Double."
- “Bach's Double” is in the Italian 3-movement style: fast-slow-fast, unlike the older-style German concertos of Telemann, which had 4 movements.
- It was composed when Bach was Kapellmeister at the court of Prince Leopold in Cöthen, Germany. Bach had no organ to play there, but Leopold’s court had one of the largest and finest orchestras in Europe. (Orchestras then had around 12 members.) Bach composed a great deal of instrumental music for the Cöthen musicians.

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5: Movement 1

- Composed for full orchestra.
- The form is Sonata form (Exposition, Development, Recapitulation) with Coda.
- Complete title: Symphony No. 5 in c minor, Opus 67 ("Fate").
- Movement 1 is derived almost entirely from the rhythm of the first four notes, which represents fate knocking at the door. This is the most memorable musical phrase of all time.
- Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony is the most popular, best known, most often-performed symphony.
- Since the Second World War, Beethoven's Fifth has sometimes been referred to as the “Victory Symphony.” “V” is the Roman character for the number five, and the phrase “V for Victory” became well known in the campaign of the Allies of World War II. Also, the rhythm of the opening phrase – “dit-dit-dit-dah” – was used for the letter "V" in Morse code. During World War II, the BBC started its broadcasts with those four notes, played on drums.

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5: Movement 4

- Composed for full orchestra, plus piccolo, trombone, and contrabassoon (not in first movement).
- The form is Sonata form (Exposition, Development, Recapitulation) with Coda.
- The key of C minor was a special key for Beethoven. It symbolizes his artistic character and is associated with heroic struggle.
- The fourth movement begins in C major. This is an unusual choice because early classical symphonies that begin in C minor were expected to also finish in C minor, but with a raised third in the final chord. In Beethoven’s words: “Many assert that every minor piece must end in the minor.

Not so! ... Joy follows sorrow, as sunshine follows rain." After the example Beethoven set in his **Fifth Symphony**, most C minor symphonies of the Romantic period end in C major.

- Beethoven's **Fifth Symphony** premiered on December 22, 1808, at an all-Beethoven marathon concert with the composer conducting. Also on the program: **Symphony No. 6, Piano Concerto No. 4** (with Beethoven as soloist), and several other compositions. The four-hour concert did not go well. The musicians struggled to play the demanding new music in a freezing hall after limited rehearsal. This concert was Beethoven's last public appearance as a soloist.

Debussy: Children's Corner Suite: Golliwogg's Cake Walk

- Composed for piano.
- The form is ABA form with Introduction and Coda.
- Debussy composed the Children's Corner Suite for his young daughter, Claude-Emma (1905-19), nicknamed "Chou-Chou" ("darling").
- Chou-Chou had an English nanny, and the titles of the six movements of the suite are in English.
- "Golliwogg's Cake Walk" is the sixth piece in the suite. It was inspired by American ragtime music and contains a musical quote from the theme of Wagner's opera, Tristan and Isolde.

Gould: American Salute

- Composed for full orchestra.
- The form is Theme and Variations.
- American Salute was written overnight for a radio broadcast the next day. Gould began to write at dinner time and finished the next morning at 9:00 a.m. Gould conducted the piece the first time it was played on the popular radio show, "The Chrysler Hour" in 1943.
- The theme is the popular song "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" by Patrick Gilmore. The song expresses longing for the safe return of friends and loved ones who were fighting in the war.

Gounod: Roméo et Juliette: Je veux vivre

- Composed for voice (soprano) and orchestra.
- The form is AABAC Coda.
- Gounod's 5-act opera **Roméo et Juliette** is based on Shakespeare's tragedy.
- The libretto is written in French.
- The opera's premiere, at the 1867 World's Fair in Paris, was a great success.
- Juliette's arietta appears in Act 1, at the masked ball before Juliette has met Roméo.
- Je veux vivre is a showpiece for coloratura soprano.

Holst: Suite No. 2: March

- Composed for military band.
- The form is ABA.
- The March is the first of four movements. It is based on the melodies of two Morris Dances and two Riley Ballads.
- Holst's Second Suite is performed less often than his First Suite (1909). Together, the two suites were the first pieces of serious music composed specifically for band.

Joplin: Maple Leaf Rag

- Composed for piano.
- The form is AA BB A CC DD.

- The piece was named for the Maple Leaf Club in Sedalia, Missouri, where Joplin worked when he wrote it.
- The “Maple Leaf Rag” was the first piece of instrumental sheet music to sell more than a million copies. For the “Maple Leaf Rag,” Joplin received \$50 and an unheard-of royalty of 1 cent for each copy sold.
- The “Maple Leaf Rag” is Joplin’s most famous composition and ragtime’s biggest hit. Its success sparked a ragtime craze in both the U.S. and around the world.
- With the “Maple Leaf Rag,” Joplin established the standard rag form: AA BB A CC DD.

Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night’s Dream: Dance of the Clowns

- Composed for chamber orchestra (with ophicleide).
- The form is Introduction AA BB CC AA DD EE Coda.
- Mendelssohn composed an overture for Shakespeare’s play and 13 additional sections of incidental music, including the world-famous "Wedding March," which is often used when the bride and groom leave the wedding ceremony.
- The "Dance of the Clowns" is a Bergamask dance that occurs in the final act of the play after the wedding ceremony.
- In the "Dance of the Clowns" the ophicleide plays with the timpani, cellos, and string basses on the steady half-note, stamping pulse.

Mozart: Exultate, Jubilate: Alleluja

- Composed for voice (soprano) and chamber orchestra: 2 oboes, 2 French horns, 2 violins, 2 violas, cello, and organ.
- The form is theme (ritornello) that alternates with contrasting sections.
- **Exultate, Jubilate** (“Rejoice, Shout!” in Latin) is one of 20 motets composed by Mozart. It was written in Milan in 1773, when Mozart was just 16 years old, during one of his visits to Italy with his father. It has two arias and ends with “Alleluja.”
- “Alleluja” is frequently performed as a concert piece.

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition: Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks

- Composed for orchestra.
- The form is ABA Coda.
- **Pictures at an Exhibition** was originally composed for solo piano, as a tribute to the Russian artist Viktor Hartmann (1834-1873), a departed friend of Mussorgsky.
- The suite has been orchestrated several times, but the 1922 arrangement for full orchestra by French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) is the best known and most often performed.
- The suite contains 15 pieces: 10 movements which are musical illustrations of Hartmann pictures, plus the "Promenade" and several interludes.
- "Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks" is the fifth "picture." It was inspired by Hartmann's illustration of a child's costume for a scene in a Russian ballet named Trilby.
- The movement is a scherzino and is marked *vivo, leggiero* (“lively, lightly” in Italian).

Palestrina: Missa Hodie Christus natus est: Kyrie

- Composed for 8-part voices (SSAATTBB).
- The form is ABCD.
- **Missa Hodie Christus natus est**, aka "Christmas Mass," is a parody mass modelled on Palestrina’s own 8-voiced motet for Christmas Day, “Hodie Christus natus est.”

- The parts of this mass are Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei.
- The text is Latin: Kyrie eleison (“Lord have mercy”) and Christe eleison (“Christ have mercy”).
- Palestrina grouped the 8 vocal parts into a high choir (SSAB) and a low choir (ATTB).

Rodrigo: Fantasía para un gentilhombre: Movement 1

- Composed for guitar and orchestra.
- The form is 2 sections: Villano (call-and-response) and Ricercare (fugue).
- Translation of the title: “Fantasy for a Gentleman.”
- Composed for Spanish guitar virtuoso Andrés Segovia (1893-1987).
- **Fantasía para un gentilhombre** is a companion piece to Rodrigo's most famous composition, **Concierto de Aranjuez** (1939), the first concert work composed for guitar and orchestra.
- The work has four movements, based on six short dances for solo guitar by the 17th century Spanish priest and composer Gaspar Sanz (1640-1710), one of the first great guitar virtuosos.

Saint-Saëns: Carnival of the Animals: Finale

- Composed for 2 pianos, chamber orchestra.
- The form is Introduction AA B AA C D Coda.
- **Carnival of the Animals** was written for Saint-Saëns’ students as a musical joke.
- It is a suite of 14 short pieces scored for 2 pianos and chamber orchestra: 2 violins, viola, cello, string bass, flute, clarinet, xylophone, and glockenspiel. The “Finale” is the final movement of the suite.
- Saint-Saëns would not allow the suite to be published in his lifetime because he thought it would damage his image as a serious composer.

R. Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra: Introduction

- Composed for large orchestra and organ.
- The form is A A’ A’’ B.
- **Also Sprach Zarathustra** is the most popular of Strauss's seven tone poems. The Introduction (also called the Prelude) is the most-performed of its nine sections.
- Strauss called the Introduction, “Sunrise.”
- It is based on a novel, **Zarathustra**, by German poet and philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). The book is about humans becoming a race of "super men."

Stravinsky: The Firebird: Infernal Dance

- Composed for large orchestra, 3 harps, and piano.
- The form is AA’ B A’ C DD AA’ E D E’.
- **The Firebird** is Stravinsky's first ballet. It was composed for the *Ballet Russes* (Russian Ballet) to perform at the Paris Opera House. It was an instant success and made Stravinsky famous overnight.
- The story of the ballet is based on a Russian fairy tale.
- The full name of the selection is the "Infernal Dance of All Katschei's Subjects." It occurs at the point in the ballet where the Firebird leads Katschei and his monstrous creatures in a wild dance, until they drop in exhaustion.
- Stravinsky created three suites from the music of the ballet. The "Infernal Dance" is part of each of the suites.

- The "Infernal Dance" is full of brilliant, imaginative contrasts in color and timbre. The rhythmic energy is created by accents, dynamic contrasts, and strong, irregular rhythms.

Telemann: Concerto for Viola and String Orchestra in G Major: Movement 2

- Composed for solo viola and chamber orchestra: 2 violins, viola, cello, string bass, and harpsichord.
- The form is theme (ritornello) that alternates with contrasting sections.
- Telemann's Viola Concerto is the first known concerto for viola, the only Baroque viola concerto, and the only viola concerto that Telemann wrote.
- It was composed when Telemann was the official music director for the city of Frankfurt, Germany, for the weekly Frauenstein concerts.
- This concerto has four movements (slow-fast-slow-fast) and was written for viola solo and chamber orchestra of 2 violins, viola, string bass, and basso continuo (cello and harpsichord).

Verdi: Aida: Triumphal March

- Composed for full orchestra and opera chorus.
- The form is Introduction A B C D E Coda.
- Verdi's opera, **Aida**, was commissioned for \$20,000 by the ruler of Egypt, Ismail the Magnificent. It premiered in Cairo, Egypt, on Christmas Eve, 1871, with an audience from around the world. Verdi wasn't there. He did attend its premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy, on February 8, 1872.
- **Aida** is set in the ancient Egyptian cities of Memphis and Thebes, during the time of the Pharaohs and the building of the pyramids.
- The libretto is written in Italian.
- **Aida** is known for its triumphal procession. The first staging included horses, camels, and a live elephant!
- **Aida** ranks number 16 on the list of the 20 most-performed operas in the U.S.

Wagner: The Flying Dutchman: Overture

- Composed for orchestra.
- The form is A B A A C A C B A B A B (sequence of leitmotifs).
- The Flying Dutchman: a legendary ghost ship that can never make port and is doomed to sail the oceans forever. The Flying Dutchman also refers to the Captain of the ship.
- The source for the opera was Heinrich Heine's version of the legend, **Memoirs of Herr von Schnabelewopski**. In Heine's novel, the Dutch sea captain is cursed to sail the earth forever, and can come ashore only once every seven years to seek the selfless, true love of a faithful woman, which is the only way the curse can be broken.
- Wagner wrote the libretto and composed the music of **The Flying Dutchman (*Der fliegende Holländer*)**. The music of the Overture was composed last. He conducted the premiere in Dresden.
- The Overture and the opera have identical endings. When Wagner revised the opera (1846, 1852, and 1860), all changes made to the end of the Overture were copied to the end of the opera.
- **The Flying Dutchman** is the shortest of Wagner's operas (ca. 2 hours, 20 minutes), and was the first to be performed at the Bayreuth Festival.

Welcher: Prairie Light: Starlight Night

- Composed for orchestra.
- The form is through-composed.
- **Prairie Light** was commissioned in 1985 by the Sherman Symphony Orchestra in Sherman, Texas. It premiered there in 1986.

- Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986): an American artist known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, New York skyscrapers, and New Mexico landscapes. Known as the "Mother of American modernism."
- Full title: **Prairie Light: Three Texas Water Colors of Georgia O'Keefe**. The suite was inspired by three of Georgia O'Keeffe's watercolors from 1917: "Light Coming on the Plains," "Canyon with Crows," and "Starlight Night." The three movements have the same titles as the paintings.
- **Prairie Light** is Welcher's most frequently-performed composition for orchestra. Pictures of the three O'Keeffe watercolors are often projected in performances.