

COMPOSER SONGS

Meet 12 Famous Composers Through Song
Arranged, with new Words, by Sally K. Albrecht

Recording Orchestrated by Alan Billingsley
and David Hagy

Reproducible
Biographies,
Activities, and
Song Sheets
Included!

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Note: Reproducible student pages and color cover art are included as PDF files on the enhanced SoundTrax CD.



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1. MORLEY MADRIGALS

("Now Is the Month of Maying")

Music by THOMAS MORLEY
Arranged with Words by SALLY K. ALBRECHT

Lightly, in two (♩ = ca. 80)

mf

PIANO

"Now

5

mf-p

is the month of May - ing, when mer - ry lads are
first di - rect - ed chil - dren, then stud - ied on the

8

play - ing. Fa la la la la la la la la la." We love
or - gan. "Fa la la la la la la la la la." We love



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Born: February 23, 1685 in Halle, Saxony (Germany)

Died: April 14, 1759 in London, England

Era: Baroque

Imagine wanting to study music, but having your father decide you should be a lawyer. That was the story of George Handel's early life, so he had to study music secretly. During his first year studying law at the University of Halle in Germany, his father died. George quickly left law school and joined an opera orchestra in Hamburg as a violinist. It was there that he began composing his first opera. At the age of 21, George moved to Italy, where operas were quite popular, to study and write. Eventually he moved to England, where he lived for the rest of his life. He became the artistic director of the Royal Academy of Music, composing operas and several oratorios for the group. When they went bankrupt seven years later, he formed his own opera company. Sadly, this group also failed, leaving Handel financially broke. At this point, he started writing oratorios, including his most famous, *Messiah*, in 1742. It was said that he composed almost as fast as he could physically write out the music.

Water Music, Suite No. 2, II. Alla Hornpipe

Handel's *Water Music* is actually a collection of several short, dance-like orchestral movements, generally published as three suites. It was written for a special performance on July 17, 1717, along the River Thames in London at the request of King George I. Handel wrote these suites for a larger orchestra, so they could be heard more easily outdoors. King George and his party were on one barge, cruising up the river with the tide, while about 50 musicians played the piece on another barge provided by the City of London. Townspeople gathered along the river's edge and floated by in smaller boats and barges. The king liked the music so much that the suite was played four times in a row that evening. The first suite is in eleven movements in the key of F major. Suite No. 2 is in D major and in five movements (our piece features the second section, *Alla Hornpipe*). The third and final suite in G major features five movements.

Other Famous Works

Messiah — an oratorio for chorus and orchestra

Music for Royal Fireworks — for orchestra

His 45 operas

His sacred choral works

Student song sheet on page 53. Handel activity on page 70.