

# ACCENT ON COMPOSERS

The Music and Lives of 22 Great Composers,  
with Listening CD, Review/Tests, and Supplemental Materials

**JAY ALTHOUSE ■ SALLY K. ALBRECHT**

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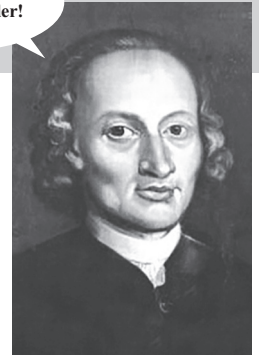
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# Review!

I'm not just a one-hit wonder!



**Johann Pachelbel**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Place the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.  
For True/False questions, print True or False in the space provided.

- Pachelbel spent most of his life in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Germany  
B. Austria  
C. United States  
D. Hungary
- True or False: In the late 1600s, Vienna, Austria, was the musical center of Europe. \_\_\_\_\_
- Pachelbel was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a premier organist  
B. a composer  
C. responsible for organ maintenance  
D. all of the above
- True or False: A plague killed Pachelbel's second wife and daughter.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- True or False: Pachelbel was close friends with the Bach family. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1665, Pachelbel was hired as an organist/composer by city officials in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Vienna, Austria  
B. Nuremberg, Germany  
C. Stuttgart, Germany  
D. Gotha, Germany
- True or False: Pachelbel is perhaps best known for the influence he had on younger composers. \_\_\_\_\_
- Pachelbel's *Canon* was originally written for \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. woodwind quartet  
B. harpsichord and three flutes  
C. three violins and bass  
D. full orchestra
- True or False: The Listening Example is written in the key of D Major.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In Pachelbel's *Canon*, the same pattern of \_\_\_\_\_ chords are used over and over again, and the bass line is repeated \_\_\_\_\_ times.  
A. 8  
B. 4  
C. 28  
D. 18

## Bonus:

The repeating bass line in the Listening Example is known as a ground bass or \_\_\_\_\_.

# Henry Purcell

Hehn'-ree Purr'-suhl

## A composer of the Baroque Era



*born*

September 10, 1659  
(exact date unknown)

Westminster (London), England

*died*

November 21, 1695

Westminster (London), England

“

As poetry is the  
harmony of words, so  
music is that of notes.

”

—Henry Purcell

The date of Henry Purcell's birth is not certain, but most likely he was born on September 10, 1659, in Westminster, an area within the city of London, England. The Purcell family lived very close to Westminster Abbey, a famous church in London. Henry's father was a church musician who died when Henry was five years old.

Henry then went to live with his uncle who was also a musician, and who encouraged Henry's interest in music by enrolling him as a chorister in a chapel choir and giving him music lessons.

We know that Henry wrote his first song, an ode to the King's birthday, at age 11. He may have written other songs as early as age nine. Henry attended Westminster School, was a good student, and at age 17 was appointed music copyist at Westminster Abbey. Copying the music of other composers was considered excellent training for young composers.

When he was 20, Henry was appointed organist at Westminster Abbey, a very important position in London. Here he spent much of his time writing sacred music, but Henry didn't limit himself to sacred music like most church organist/composers. He also wrote music for stage and theater productions. This was known as incidental music. He did not consider theater music to be beneath his talents, as some composers did.

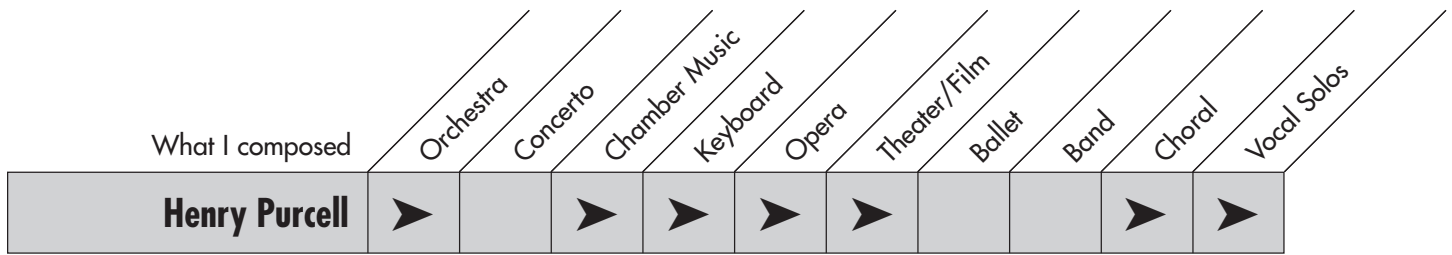
Sometime before 1689, Purcell wrote his first **opera**, *Dido and Aeneas*, which is considered to be one of the first operas written in the English language. He also was hired by the royal family to write music for royal events, the earliest being a choral anthem which he wrote to commemorate the escape of King Charles II from a shipwreck.

In 1682, at the age of 22, Purcell married Frances Peters. They had six children, but only two survived to adulthood. That same year he was named organist at the Chapel Royal, another large church in London, but he also kept his position at Westminster Abbey, holding both jobs simultaneously. He continued composing both sacred and theater music, and also producing music for events such as the coronation of King James II and the birthday of Queen Mary II.

By 1687 Purcell had become the busiest and most important composer in England. His operas and choral works were widely performed, and he was often **commissioned** by the royal family to compose music for special occasions. One of his most famous operas, *King Arthur*, was written in 1691 when Henry was 32. Between 1689 and 1695, he wrote music for 42 plays.

Henry Purcell died of an unknown illness in 1695 at the young age of 36. He was buried next to the organ inside Westminster Abbey. A few months prior to his death, Purcell had composed music for the funeral of Queen Mary. That music was also performed at Purcell's funeral service.

# Henry Purcell



## Purcell Factoids:

- Purcell died of unknown causes. One theory was death by chocolate poisoning.
- Like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who also died in his mid-30s, Purcell wrote a huge amount of music in his short life.
- For several centuries after Purcell's death, his only piece that was regularly performed was his opera *Dido and Aeneas*.
- *Dido and Aeneas* was composed for a girls' boarding school in Chelsea, England.
- After Purcell died, his wife collected many of his compositions and had them published.

## Famous Works:

*Dido and Aeneas* – an opera  
*The Faery Queen* – an opera  
*King Arthur* – an opera  
*How Pleasant Is this Flowery Plain* – a **cantata**

**1659:** Birth of Henry Purcell. Swedish forces attack Copenhagen, Denmark.

**1666:** The Great Fire of London destroys an estimated 70,000 homes.

**1669:** Dutch artist Rembrandt dies in Amsterdam.

**1677:** Ice cream becomes a popular treat in Paris

**1682:** Pennsylvania is founded by William Penn.

**1683:** France claims the Louisiana territory.

**1688:** Plate glass is used for the first time.

**1693:** William and Mary College is founded in Virginia.

**1695:** Death of Henry Purcell. Gold is discovered in Brazil.

## What in the world is happening?

## Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

### “Trumpet Tune in C Major” (ZT. 678)

English composer Henry Purcell was known for the great variety of his compositions. One of the most revered English Baroque composers, he was able to merge elements of popular French and Italian music in his compositions. He influenced many composers of his time and had many followers.

In most cases, his trumpet pieces were short—usually between one and three minutes. He made sure that the trumpet interacted well with the other instruments in his compositions (in this case, the organ). Purcell’s music for trumpet and organ included multiple solos, **suites**, and **sonatas**. He did not write big trumpet fanfares but more ceremonial pieces for court events.

Purcell’s “Trumpet Tune and Air in C Major” was first published in 1696, after Purcell’s death. It is also known as the “Cibell.” This popular selection is one of the favorites for wedding processions and ceremonial occasions. The Listening Example will feature just the 32-measure “Trumpet Tune” written in  $\frac{4}{4}$  time.

- Feel how perfect this tempo is for walking majestically around a room. Give it a try!
- Clap your hands three times any time you hear the three repeated notes in the trumpet or the organ.

“

**A greater musical  
genius England  
never had.**

”

—*Roger North,*  
*describing Henry Purcell*

#### TIMING

- :01 Opening theme. Note how the dotted rhythms add grandeur. A repeat follows with a change in the last two measures. Note the trill.
- :17 Repeat, with some embellishment.
- :35 A softer section for eight measures, focusing still on the repeated note and dotted rhythms. Note the sequences (repeated melodic patterns) that are played.
- :52 Repeat, with some embellishment.