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| Gustav Mahler Exercises | museducation.org/285 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

*Task: Match each term with the appropriate explanation!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (C) | Arnold Schoenberg | (1) | historical region in Czech Republic |
| (E) | Vienna Conservatory | (2) | music school in Austria |
| (E) | Composer | (3) | person who directs performances |
| (E) | Das Lied von der Erde | (4) | person who writes music |
| (E) | Alban Berg | (5) | extended musical composition |
| (F) | Conductor | (6) | song cycle by Mahler |
| (N) | New York Philharmonic | (7) | American orchestra |
| (R) | Bohemian Kingdom | (8) | Austrian composer |
| (R) | Symphony | (9) | Austrian composer |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

**Complete sentences**

*Task: Match the beginning of each sentence with the end!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | Mahler was ... | (1) | ... was born in 1860. |
| (E) | He died ... | (2) | ... at the Vienna Conservatory. |
| (G) | Gustav Mahler ... | (3) | ... both a conductor and composer. |
| (L) | He studied ... | (4) | ... often reflects Jewish themes. |
| (S) | His music ... | (5) | ... to America later in life. |
| (S) | Mahler moved ... | (6) | ... at the age of 50. |
| (S) | His music ... | (7) | ... had a significant impact. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Where was Gustav Mahler born? |
| (R) | in Germany |
| (S) | in the Bohemian Kingdom |
| (V) | in Austria |
| 2. | What did Mahler study? |
| (A) | mathematics and physics |
| (O) | piano and composition |
| (S) | painting and sculpture |
| 3. | Where did Mahler move later in life? |
| (N) | to Russia |
| (R) | to America |
| (T) | to France |
| 4. | What is „Das Lied von der Erde“? |
| (B) | a song cycle by Mahler |
| (R) | a painting |
| (V) | a novel |
| 5. | Who further developed Mahler’s music after his death? |
| (A) | Johann Sebastian Bach |
| (E) | Arnold Schoenberg and Alban Berg |
| (S) | Ludwig van Beethoven |
| 6. | What is Mahler’s significance in music history? |
| (R) | a minor figure in classical music |
| (T) | one of the most important figures in both Romantic and modern music |
| (V) | a pioneer of jazz music |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword**: | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Right or wrong?**

*Task: State whether the statements are true or false!*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| right | wrong |  |
| (L) | (V) | 1. Gustav Mahler was a conductor. |
| (F) | (A) | 2. Mahler was born in Austria. |
| (R) | (D) | 3. Mahler lived to be 100. |
| (D) | (R) | 4. Mahler wrote „Das Lied von der Erde“. |
| (E) | (T) | 5. Mahler moved to America. |
| (A) | (R) | 6. Mahler was a painter. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**7 Questions about the text**

*Task: Answer the questions in one or two complete sentences!*

What was Gustav Mahler’s early life like?

What did Mahler do at the Vienna Conservatory?

What is notable about Mahler’s work as a conductor and composer?

What are some characteristics of Mahler’s symphonies and songs?

What themes are present in Mahler’s music?

What was Mahler’s life like in America?

What happened after Mahler’s death?

**Solution sheet 1**

**Gustav Mahler**

**Match terms**

Bohemian Kingdom = historical region in Czech Republic

Vienna Conservatory = music school in Austria

Conductor = person who directs performances

Composer = person who writes music

Symphony = extended musical composition

Das Lied von der Erde = song cycle by Mahler

New York Philharmonic = American orchestra

Arnold Schoenberg = Austrian composer

Alban Berg = Austrian composer

Keyword: REFERENCE

**Complete sentences**

Gustav Mahler | was born in 1860.

He studied | at the Vienna Conservatory.

Mahler was | both a conductor and composer.

His music | often reflects Jewish themes.

Mahler moved | to America later in life.

He died | at the age of 50.

His music | had a significant impact.

Keyword: GLASSES

**Questions**

Where was Gustav Mahler born?

in the Bohemian Kingdom

What did Mahler study?

piano and composition

Where did Mahler move later in life?

to America

What is „Das Lied von der Erde“?

a song cycle by Mahler

Who further developed Mahler’s music after his death?

Arnold Schoenberg and Alban Berg

What is Mahler’s significance in music history?

one of the most important figures in both Romantic and modern music

Keyword: SORBET

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Gustav Mahler was a conductor.

4. Mahler wrote „Das Lied von der Erde“.

5. Mahler moved to America.

wrong

6. Mahler was a painter.

2. Mahler was born in Austria.

3. Mahler lived to be 100.

Keyword: LADDER

**Solution sheet 2**

**Gustav Mahler**

**Questions and answers**

What was Gustav Mahler’s early life like?

Gustav Mahler was born in the Bohemian Kingdom and grew up in a German-speaking Jewish family. He was the second of fourteen children.

What did Mahler do at the Vienna Conservatory?

At the Vienna Conservatory, Mahler studied piano and composition. He showed great talent at an early age and aspired to a career in music.

What is notable about Mahler’s work as a conductor and composer?

Gustav Mahler was active as both a conductor and a composer. He worked in various cities, including Hamburg, Vienna and New York, and impressed with his conducting skills.

What are some characteristics of Mahler’s symphonies and songs?

Mahler is known for his complex and emotionally profound symphonies. He also wrote song cycles such as „Das Lied von der Erde,“ which are still popular today.

What themes are present in Mahler’s music?

His music often reflects Jewish melodies and themes. These influences can be heard especially in his early works and form part of his identity as an artist.

What was Mahler’s life like in America?

Toward the end of his life, Mahler moved to America, where he served as conductor of the New York Philharmonic. His time in the United States, however, was marked by health problems.

What happened after Mahler’s death?

After his death, Mahler’s music experienced a renaissance and was further developed by composers such as Arnold Schoenberg and Alban Berg. His works have had a significant impact on music history.