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| Richard Wagner Exercises | museducation.org/305 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (B) | Controversial | (1) | creates musical works |
| (E) | Passionate | (2) | leads a musical ensemble |
| (I) | Composer | (3) | oversees the production of a play |
| (I) | Leitmotifs | (4) | short musical themes |
| (I) | Innovations | (5) | large musical ensembles |
| (L) | Extravagant | (6) | new methods or ideas |
| (N) | Conductor | (7) | causing disagreement or discussion |
| (S) | Orchestras | (8) | exceeding the limits of reason |
| (V) | Theater director | (9) | having strong emotions |

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

**Complete sentences**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (C) | Wagner is known ... | (1) | ... was a German composer. |
| (E) | He was also ... | (2) | ... in Leipzig in 1813. |
| (I) | He was born ... | (3) | ... for his operas. |
| (P) | Richard Wagner ... | (4) | ... „leitmotifs“ in his works. |
| (R) | Wagner had strong ... | (5) | ... often very long. |
| (T) | He often used ... | (6) | ... opinions about art. |
| (U) | His works are ... | (7) | ... a talented writer. |

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

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | What was Richard Wagner’s profession? |
| (G) | Composer |
| (R) | Scientist |
| (V) | Painter |
| 2. | Where was Richard Wagner born? |
| (A) | Leipzig |
| (B) | Munich |
| (S) | Berlin |
| 3. | What is the „Ring des Nibelungen“? |
| (N) | A painting |
| (R) | A series of four musical dramas |
| (T) | A novel |
| 4. | What is a leitmotif? |
| (D) | A short musical theme |
| (R) | A dance move |
| (V) | A type of instrument |
| 5. | Who was one of Wagner’s greatest supporters? |
| (A) | Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria |
| (E) | King Ludwig II of Bavaria |
| (S) | Queen Victoria of England |
| 6. | What else did Wagner do besides composing music? |
| (N) | Writing |
| (R) | Painting |
| (V) | Dancing |

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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 |  |
| (D) | (V) | 1. Richard Wagner was a German composer. |
| (F) | (A) | 2. Wagner was a French composer. |
| (R) | (N) | 3. Wagner was born in Venice in 1883. |
| (G) | (R) | 4. Wagner was born in Leipzig in 1813. |
| (E) | (T) | 5. One of Wagner’s works is the „Ring des Nibelungen.“ |
| (A) | (R) | 6. Wagner wrote only one opera. |

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

**7 Questions about the text**

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

What is Richard Wagner known for?

What is one of Wagner’s most famous works?

What is the Bayreuth Festival?

What is special about Wagner’s musical style?

Why was Wagner a controversial figure?

What was Wagner’s influence on music?

Who was King Ludwig II of Bavaria in relation to Wagner?

**Solution sheet 1**

**Richard Wagner**

**Match terms**

Composer = creates musical works

Conductor = leads a musical ensemble

Theater director = oversees the production of a play

Leitmotifs = short musical themes

Orchestras = large musical ensembles

Innovations = new methods or ideas

Controversial = causing disagreement or discussion

Extravagant = exceeding the limits of reason

Passionate = having strong emotions

Keyword: INVISIBLE

**Complete sentences**

Richard Wagner | was a German composer.

He was born | in Leipzig in 1813.

Wagner is known | for his operas.

He often used | „leitmotifs“ in his works.

His works are | often very long.

Wagner had strong | opinions about art.

He was also | a talented writer.

Keyword: PICTURE

**Questions**

What was Richard Wagner’s profession?

Composer

Where was Richard Wagner born?

Leipzig

What is the „Ring des Nibelungen“?

A series of four musical dramas

What is a leitmotif?

A short musical theme

Who was one of Wagner’s greatest supporters?

King Ludwig II of Bavaria

What else did Wagner do besides composing music?

Writing

Keyword: GARDEN

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Richard Wagner was a German composer.

4. Wagner was born in Leipzig in 1813.

5. One of Wagner’s works is the „Ring des Nibelungen.“

wrong

6. Wagner wrote only one opera.

2. Wagner was a French composer.

3. Wagner was born in Venice in 1883.

Keyword: DANGER

**Solution sheet 2**

**Richard Wagner**

**Questions and answers**

What is Richard Wagner known for?

Richard Wagner is especially known for his operas and music dramas, which often deal with epic themes and stories.

What is one of Wagner’s most famous works?

One of Wagner’s most famous works is the „Ring des Nibelungen,“ a series of four musical dramas that together tell an epic story.

What is the Bayreuth Festival?

The Bayreuth Festival is a famous event at which Wagner’s works are performed. It takes place at the Bayreuth Festival Theater, which Wagner built.

What is special about Wagner’s musical style?

Wagner’s music is known for its complexity and depth. He often used „leitmotifs,“ short musical themes associated with particular characters or ideas.

Why was Wagner a controversial figure?

Wagner was a controversial figure because he had strong opinions about art, politics, and society that were not always well received. His views on Jews were also controversial.

What was Wagner’s influence on music?

Wagner’s influence on music history has been enormous. Many later composers, including Gustav Mahler and Richard Strauss, were influenced by him.

Who was King Ludwig II of Bavaria in relation to Wagner?

King Ludwig II of Bavaria was one of Wagner’s greatest supporters. The king was a great admirer of Wagner’s music and financed many of his projects.