

Mr. Greene's

general music *Study Guide*

Print this study guide and bring it with you Monday to receive 5 bonus points on the test!

VOCABULARY

1. **Beat** – a constant steady pulse (like your heart)
2. **Tempo** – the speed of the beat
3. **Rhythm** – how the music moves from one beat to the next; combination of long tones, short tones, and silence; the musical element we dance to
4. **Polyrhythm** – two or more rhythms performed at the same time
5. **Ostinato** – a repeating musical pattern
6. **Virtuoso** – an individual who possesses outstanding technical ability at singing or playing a musical instrument
7. **Adagio** – slow (slow tempo as in Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings")
8. **Improvisation** – to make up a rhythm or melody on the spot, off the top of your head; to "make it up as you go" (commonly used in jazz)
9. **Notate/Notation** – (v.) to write down the music using symbols; (n.) the symbols used to represent the music
10. **Dynamics** – the musical symbols that tell us how loud or soft to play or sing
ex. *pp* (*pianissimo – extremely soft*), *p* (*piano - soft*), *mp* (*mezzo piano – medium soft*), *mf* (*mezzo forte – medium loud*), *forte* (*loud*), *ff* (*fortissimo – fortissimo*)

COMPOSERS - [VISIT the RMS MUSIC & MEDIA BLOG for video clips](#)

Ludwig van Beethoven

- 1770 - 1827
- Born in Germany (which is on the continent of Europe)
- VOCABULARY: **virtuoso**
- He was a piano virtuoso
- Moved to **Vienna** where he spent most of his life and composed most of his music (Vienna is the capital city of Austria, a European country that borders Germany)
- Composed nine symphonies (large works written for and performed by a symphony orchestra)
- LISTENING EXAMPLE: **Symphony No. 5** ("This is the fiiiiifh! This is the fiiiiifh!")
- LISTENING EXAMPLE: **Für Elise** (piano sonata, written for a lady named Elise)
- [VISIT the RMS MUSIC & MEDIA BLOG for video clips](#)
- He was deaf when wrote Symphony No. 9 (the one with the "Ode to Joy")

Carl Orff

- 1895 – 1982
- Born in Germany
- He was a **twentieth century** composer
- LISTENING EXAMPLE: “**O fortuna**” (from *Carmina Burana*)
[VISIT the RMS MUSIC & MEDIA BLOG for video clips](#)
- He developed the teaching method known as Orff Schulwerk, or **Orff Music**
- In Roman mythology, Fortuna was the *goddess of fortune*
- VOCABULARY: **dynamics**
- “O fortuna” provides a great example of dynamics - it opens at *ff* (*fortissimo*), and abruptly drops to *p* or *pp* (*piano* or *pianissimo*), returning to *fortissimo* through the end of the piece.

Samuel Barber

- 1910 – 1981
- Born in West Chester, PA (Pennsylvania), USA
- He was a **twentieth century American** composer
- LISTENING EXAMPLE: “**Adagio for Strings**”
[VISIT the RMS MUSIC & MEDIA BLOG for video clips](#)
- “Adagio for Strings” is a slow moving piece for stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass)
- VOCABULARY: **adagio**
- PULITZER PRIZE: an American award regarded as the highest national honor in newspaper journalism, literary achievements and **musical composition**. It is administered by Columbia University in New York City.
- Samuel Barber won two Pulitzer Prizes: 1958 for *Vanessa*, regarded as America’s first “grand” opera; 1963 for his *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*