

# Composer Biographies

**Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770—1827) was a German pianist and composer. His first music teacher was his own father, who recognized his talent at a young age, and helped him tour and perform for audiences. At 13, he wrote his first published composition. Throughout his career, Beethoven wrote over 100 hours worth of music. During the end of his life, Beethoven had become almost entirely deaf. However, he continued to write music as his hearing worsened. It was music, he stated, that kept him going. [Learn more at Classics for Kids.](#)



**Florence Beatrice Price** (1887—1953) was the first African-American woman composer to have her music played by a major US orchestra. She studied organ and piano in the New England Conservatory of Music. Her Symphony No. 1 in E minor was performed at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. The World's Fair was a showcase of inventions, art and ideas. For many years, Price's music was lost and not performed, but in the last 5 years it has been discovered, restored and is being performed worldwide. [Learn more at Classics for Kids.](#)



**Alberto Ginastera** (1916—1983) was a popular Latin American composer from Argentina. He was also a professor and director at the National Conservatory. His piece Danza Final is also called "Malambo". "Malambo" refers to a type of dance by Argentinean cowboys called "gauchos". During the dance, the gauchos wear boots and make rhythmic tap sounds. When the orchestra plays "Malambo", the rhythms are heard through the tambourine, castanets and in the melodies by the winds and strings. [Learn more at MPR.](#)



**Listen to their music on our [Young People's Concert playlist!](#)**

**What is a "gaucho"?**

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**Pick 2 of these composers to contrast. What is one difference between them?**

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**If you could go back in time to meet one of these composers, who would it be and why?**

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# Composer Commonalities

Listen to the selections of each of composer and assign the adjectives to the section of the Venn Diagram you think fits best. Then add a few adjectives of your own! **Use the playlist on [our website](#) or the links below to listen.**

Rhythmic

Upbeat

Dramatic

Flowing

Modern

Humorous

Sweet

Soft

Loud

Scenic

Unforgettable

Wild

Add your own words here:

## Need help getting started?

- Learn about [Venn Diagrams](#)
- Use a [dictionary](#) to define the terms

### BEETHOVEN:

**Mvt. IV Allegro con brio from Symphony No. 7**



### PRICE:

**Mvt. III "Juba Dance" from Symphony in E minor**



### GINASTERA:

**IV. "Malambo" from Estancia Suite**

