

# Composers and Musicians

## Reproducible Worksheets for the Music Classroom

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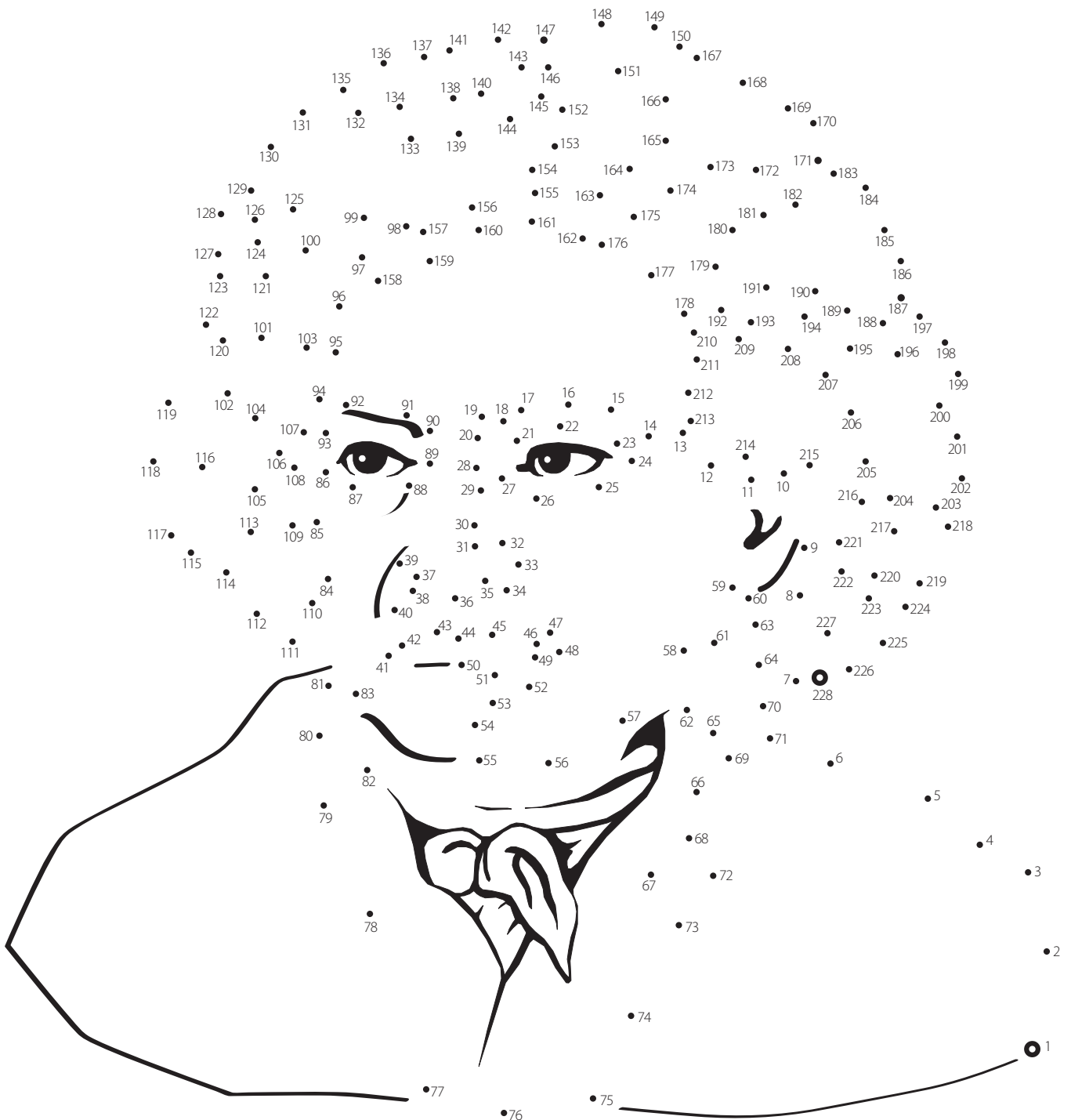
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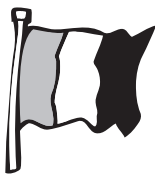


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# Composer Connect the Dots

Connect the dots from 1 (in the bottom right corner) to 228 to reveal a portrait of one of the great masters of classical music. Who is it? He's German. He wrote nine symphonies. He began to lose his hearing when he was still young and was completely deaf later in life, but he continued to write wonderful music. Have you connected these dots?





*La mer* means “the sea” in French. “Mer” is pronounced just like the English word for a female horse—*mare*.



Debussy spent two years composing *La Mer*. He finished writing it by the English Channel (a part of the Atlantic Ocean that separates England and France).



When *La Mer* was first performed in 1905, many people disliked it because it was very different from the music commonly played during that time.



Debussy used a famous painting of an ocean wave by Japanese artist Hokusai (Hoh-KOO-sigh) for the cover of the sheet music of *La Mer*.

# La Mer

by Claude Debussy (kloh-d deb-yoo-SEE) (1862–1918)



The first movement, or section, of *La Mer* represents a calm morning on the sea.

# A Very Verdi Day

One of the greatest opera composers of all time is Giuseppe Verdi (Juh-SEP-pee VEAR-dee). Verdi was born in 1813 in Italy. Today, we celebrate his birthday on both the 9th and the 10th of October because no one is sure which of those dates is his actual birthday. (Wouldn't it be cool to have two birthdays?)



Verdi, like other opera composers, wrote dramatic works driven by music. When these works are performed, all or most of the dialogue is sung. Often, operas are performed in the original language, even if it is foreign to the audience. This is because the music is considered the most important element in an opera. The singers and orchestra should portray the story and mood through the music.

Operas have been written about everything from love to important events in history to imaginary lands far away. Imagine the story you would tell in an opera. What is it about? Who are some of the characters? Can you think of a title?

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Characters:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Setting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mood:** \_\_\_\_\_

# A Very Verdi Day (cont'd)

Now imagine your opera is being performed at the famous *La Scala* opera house in Milan, Italy. In the frame below, create the poster that will hang outside the theater and draw in a crowd. Make sure to include main elements of the opera, such as the title, main characters, and mood.

