

MYSTERY COMPOSER (MC) CLUE OCTOBER 2025 GROUP

The son of a mining inspector, this year's M.C. was the first composer of his nation to gain international fame. M.C. was born into a well-to-do and music-loving family. A sensitive child, M.C. quickly showed a strong feeling for music. He began taking piano lessons when he was four years old and continued to play until he was ten. However his parents did not foresee a musical career for him so, at the age of ten, M.C. was sent to study the principles of law at a school in St. Petersburg. Unlike any other famous composer, M.C. grew up without seriously studying music.

School at St. Petersburg offered some advantages, although great loneliness. He learned more about music and was able to see operas. *Don Giovanni* [an opera by W.A. Mozart] overwhelmed him, and for him Mozart was always the greatest composer of all: he called Mozart "the Christ of Music".

M.C continued to study Law until he was 19, then he became a clerk in the Ministry of Justice. Unhappy in his job, M.C.—at age 23—decided to switch from Law to a career in music. He attended the Saint Petersburg Conservatory studying with a teacher who was both a pianist and composer, where he graduated in three years. While at school, he supported himself by giving music lessons. After he completed his studies, M.C.'s teacher's brother invited M.C. to come teach at his newly opened Moscow Conservatory of Music where he taught for 12 years. While there M.C. had time to compose his first symphonies and some other shorter works. In addition to his composing and teaching, he also wrote about music and was a music critic for a Moscow paper.

Rules of M.C. Contest:

- All answers must be emailed; I will not respond to texts or phone calls
- **Middle & High School Students must do their own research**
- **Elementary** students may (and will probably need) parental help/guidance
- All answers must include the following:
 - Name, date of birth, date of death of M.C.
 - What part of the clue did you use to guide your research?
 - Resources used to discover identity of M.C. If Google is used, please include the url(s) of articles in your email to me.
 - Include the name of at least 2 compositions by M.C.

Detailed information regarding above rules as well as the August/Sept. clue may be found on the Studio website. Be sure to look at the information regarding periods of music. I strongly urge you to check it out (be sure to scroll through entire page):

<http://www.pullinpiano.com/2021-2022-mystery-composer-contest.html>

Baroque Period:	1600 - 1750
Classical Period:	1740 - 1830
Romantic Period:	1810 - 1910
Russian Keyboard:	1850 - 1975
Impressionist Period:	1880 - 1930
Contemporary Period:	1870 - today

Happy Research!