Mystery Composer Clue
October 2026 Group

This year's M.C. was a composer, teacher, writer, critic, innovator, conductor, and pianist. However, his family had absolutely no musical background. The fifth and youngest child of the family, M.C. had two older brothers and two older sisters; all of the children helped out in the family store.

M.C. started showing an interest in music when he was about seven years old. He spent hours listening to records on his cousin's phonograph, which was a new invention at that time. M.C. also started pestering his sister whenever she practiced the piano. M.C. finally got her to give him some lessons---and started making up his own songs right away. It wasn't until he was a teenager that he was able to persuade his parents to send him to a "real" teacher. They agreed to pay for M.C.'s lessons as long as he found his own teacher.

M.C. was always interested in providing music and opportunities for young people; he wrote music for high school bands and even an opera that has a chorus for the parents to sing.

M.C.'s music can be divided into 3 different periods and styles: a) French-jazz, b) Abstract, and c) Americana/folk song based. M.C. would delve into one style of music, work in it to his satisfaction and then completely switch to a different form of composing:

> "You compose because you want to somehow summarize in some permanent form your most basic feelings about being alive, to set down... some sort of permanent statement about the way it feels to live now, today."
>
> —M.C.---.

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 — do not depend solely on AI! If you use an answer provided by AI, make sure you follow it to the original source.**
- **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!