

CREATAHOLIC

LET'S CELEBRATE CANADIAN COMPOSERS!



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<p>Day 1</p> <p>Name: _____</p>	<p>Composer: Claude Champagne Composition: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra Recording: Introduction to Canadian Music, Disc 1, Track 2 Time: 3:25</p> <p>Today's feature Canadian composer is Claude Champagne. Claude Champagne was born in 1891 in Montreal, Quebec and lived until 1965. He taught piano, violin and other instruments and won many awards for his music. He was inspired by French-Canadian folk music and the beautiful landscapes of Canada.</p> <p>There are four different parts or "Chansons" (Shawn-sawn) that make up Champagne's <i>Concerto for Piano and Orchestra</i>, each one inspired by French-Canadian folk-songs. Today we will listen to "Fiesta". A Fiesta is a Mexican celebration or party. Listen closely for his delicate use of instruments, in particular the string and woodwind sections. There is a Spanish flair to some of the piano sections.</p> <p>Hear is something to think about while you listen. Do you hear many brass or percussion instruments? Does this music sound like a celebration?</p>
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Day 2

Name: _____

Composer: Jean Coulthard

Composition: Canadian Mosaic (Suite for Orchestra) – The Contented House

Recording: Introduction to Canadian Music (Disc 1, Track 3)

Time: 3:17

Today's feature Canadian composer is Jean Coulthard. Jean Coulthard was born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1908 to a pioneering family. She was a student at the famous Julliard School for the Arts in New York and later taught composition at the University of British Columbia. She is internationally known and is very important female composer in Canadian history. Her music shows the influences of her English background. Coulthard died in 2000.

Today we will be listening to "The Contented House", the fifth piece in her *Canadian Mosaic, Suite for Orchestra*. A "Suite" is a group of pieces meant as dance music (.but no one really danced to them) and dates back to the time of Handel and Bach. All of the pieces in this suite are somehow connected to Canadian places and people.

Listen for the flute solo and the big cymbal and timpani crash. Cymbals (Sim-balls) are round metal plates that look like big, flat hats. When two cymbals are clashed together they produce a gigantic "crashing" sound.

Hear is something to think about while you listen.

Contented is a word that means "happy and comfortable". How does this piece of music make you feel? Can you see a picture of the happy house in your mind?

Day 3

Name: _____

Composer: Phil Nimmons

Composition: Atlantic Suite - Harbours

Recording: Introduction to Canadian Music (Disc 1, Track 6)

Time: 5:39

Today's feature Canadian composer is Phil Nimmons. Phil Nimmons was born in 1923 in Kamloops, British Columbia. He has been a jazz musician, composer and teacher for almost sixty years! Phil Nimmons won the first Juno Award ever for a Jazz composition – the music we will hear today!

Yesterday we listened to a piece of music from a suite. Do you remember which one? Yes! Jean Coulthard's *The Contented House*, from a Suite for Orchestra. Today we will be listening to a Suite for Jazz Ensemble, *Harbours* from Phil Nimmon's "Atlantic Suite".

A jazz ensemble is different from a symphony orchestra. Listen closely and you will hear many different brass instruments, including trumpets, trombones and tubas. You will also hear saxophones, electric piano, a double-bass (which is a string instrument, and looks like a giant violin played upside down) and different percussion instruments like drums and triangles too.

In *Harbour* you will hear drums being brushed with something that looks like a paintbrush to create the swinging rhythm you hear. You can't help but tap your feet to this music!

Hear is something to think about while you listen.

Can you picture a busy ocean harbour with fisherman and boats?

Can you name the Atlantic Provinces in Canada?

Day 4

Name: _____

Composer: Alexina Louis

Composition: Music for Heaven and Earth – Thunder Dragon

Recording: Introduction to Canadian Music (Disc 1, Track 13)

Time: 3:21

Today's feature Canadian composer is Alexina Louis. Alexina was born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1949, but now she lives in Toronto. Her family is from China, and she blends many ideas from her Chinese heritage into her music. Alexina has won many awards including Juno Awards.

Today we will be listening to *Thunder Dragon* from "Music for Heaven and Earth", which is a collection of five pieces which uses instruments found in different Asian countries. The piece begins with brass instruments and timpani in a very powerful fanfare, and also includes Peking ("PEE-King) Opera cymbals. Jean Coulthard's, *The Contented House* also had cymbals in it... do you remember the big crashing sound?

Hear is something to think about while you listen.

Does this music make you feel calm and quiet or restless and uptight? Which instrument do you think makes the best thunder sound?

Can you picture a dragon dancing around or flying through the air? Maybe it is one of the Castlebridge Dragons ☺

Day 5

Name: _____

Composer: Oskar Morawetz

Composition: Carnival Overture

Recording: Introduction to Canadian Music (Disc 1, Track 4)

Time: 6:17

Today's feature Canadian composer is Oskar Morawetz (More-a-wets). Oskar Morawetz was born in Czechoslovakia (Checko-slow-vac-yia) in 1917. He moved to Canada in 1940 and taught music until 1982 at the University of Toronto. Morawetz writes expressive music with many powerful and dramatic moments. He has won many awards, including a Juno Award for "Best Classical Composition in 2001. Which other feature composer this week won a Juno Award? Yes, Alexina Louis.

Today we will be listening to *Carnival Overture*. A Carnival is like a fall fair, usually with a big ferris wheel and a merry-go-round. What an exciting opening! Listen to the brass instruments as they announce the beginning of the piece and the big cymbal crashes.

Hear is something to think about while you listen.

Morawetz uses all of the instruments in the symphony orchestra. If you listen carefully you can hear each instrument as it plays its own little solo. See how many you can list.