Music Trivia

Name _____ Score ____ / 25

1. How many lines are there on a musical staff?

A. 4 **B.** 7 **C.** 5 **D.** 6

2. How many strings does a standard guitar have?

A. 6 **B.** 8 **C.** 4 **D.** 5

3. In music, what does “forte” mean?

A. Fast **B.** Slow **C.** Loud **D.** Soft

4. How many musicians play in a quartet?

A. 5 **B.** 4 **C.** 3 **D.** 8

5. Which composer was almost completely deaf when he wrote his Ninth Symphony?

A. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **B.** Johann Sebastian Bach
C. Joseph Haydn **D.** Ludwig van Beethoven

6. The saxophone is made of brass, but which family of instruments does it belong to?

A. Percussion **B.** Woodwinds **C.** Strings **D.** Brass

7. Who composed “The Four Seasons”?

A. Antonio Vivaldi **B.** George Frideric Handel
C. Franz Schubert **D.** Johann Sebastian Bach

8. Which singer was known as “the Man in Black”?

A. Johnny Cash **B.** Merle Haggard **C.** Hank Williams **D.** Willie Nelson

9. Which city is nicknamed “Music City” and is famous for country music?

A. Nashville **B.** Memphis **C.** Austin **D.** Branson

10. In which city did jazz grow up in the early 1900s?

A. St. Louis **B.** New Orleans **C.** Kansas City **D.** Chicago

11. Which jazz trumpeter, nicknamed Satchmo, sang “What a Wonderful World” (1967)?

A. Duke Ellington **B.** Miles Davis
C. Dizzy Gillespie **D.** Louis Armstrong

12. Who composed “Rhapsody in Blue” (1924)?

A. George Gershwin **B.** Aaron Copland
C. Irving Berlin **D.** Cole Porter

13. Which band recorded “Bohemian Rhapsody” (1975)?

A. Queen **B.** Led Zeppelin
C. The Who **D.** The Rolling Stones

14. Who wrote the opera “The Marriage of Figaro” (1786)?

A. Gioachino Rossini **B.** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
C. Giacomo Puccini **D.** Giuseppe Verdi

15. Which orchestra instrument has 47 strings and seven pedals?

A. Harp **B.** Harpsichord **C.** Piano **D.** Cello

16. Which country singer wrote both “Jolene” and “I Will Always Love You”?

A. Kitty Wells **B.** Patsy Cline **C.** Loretta Lynn **D.** Dolly Parton

17. Which singer was nicknamed “Ol’ Blue Eyes”?

A. Tony Bennett **B.** Dean Martin **C.** Frank Sinatra **D.** Bing Crosby

18. The “Hallelujah” chorus comes from which work by George Frideric Handel?

A. The Creation **B.** Messiah **C.** Elijah **D.** Water Music

19. In which country was the reggae star Bob Marley born?

A. Barbados **B.** Trinidad and Tobago
C. Jamaica **D.** Cuba

20. What is the highest singing voice in a choir?

A. Tenor **B.** Bass **C.** Alto **D.** Soprano

21. Which brass instrument uses a slide instead of valves?

A. Tuba **B.** Trumpet **C.** French horn **D.** Trombone

22. Who was called “the Godfather of Soul”?

A. Sam Cooke **B.** Ray Charles **C.** James Brown **D.** Otis Redding

23. Whose 1982 album “Thriller” is the best-selling album of all time?

A. Prince **B.** Michael Jackson
C. Lionel Richie **D.** Stevie Wonder

24. Which rock and roll piano player sang “Great Balls of Fire” (1957)?

A. Bobby Darin **B.** Fats Domino
C. Jerry Lee Lewis **D.** Little Richard

25. Which piece is often played as a newly married couple walks back down the aisle?

A. Wagner’s “Bridal Chorus” **B.** Schubert’s “Ave Maria”
C. Pachelbel’s Canon **D.** Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March”

Answer Key

1. **C. 5**
   Notes sit on the lines and in the four spaces between them.

2. **A. 6**
   From the lowest, they are usually tuned E, A, D, G, B and E.

3. **C. Loud**
   Piano means soft, so the full name of the piano, the pianoforte, means “soft-loud.”

4. **B. 4**
   A string quartet is two violins, a viola and a cello.

5. **D. Ludwig van Beethoven**
   At the 1824 premiere he had to be turned around to see the audience applauding.

6. **B. Woodwinds**
   Like a clarinet, it makes its sound with a reed; Adolphe Sax patented it in 1846.

7. **A. Antonio Vivaldi**
   The four violin concertos, one for each season, were published in 1725.

8. **A. Johnny Cash**
   In a 1971 song he explained that he wore black for the poor, for prisoners and for the lonely.

9. **A. Nashville**
   Tennessee’s capital has had a weekly country music radio show since 1925.

10. **B. New Orleans**
    It mixed blues, ragtime, church music and the city’s brass marching bands.

11. **D. Louis Armstrong**
    He was born in New Orleans in 1901.

12. **A. George Gershwin**
    It opens with a clarinet sliding up more than two octaves in one long sweep.

13. **A. Queen**
    Freddie Mercury wrote it; it runs almost six minutes and has no chorus.

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Answer Key, continued

14. **B. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
    Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" tells an earlier part of the same story.

15. **A. Harp**
    Each pedal changes the pitch of every string of one note, such as all the C strings, at once.

16. **D. Dolly Parton**
    Whitney Houston's 1992 version of "I Will Always Love You" became one of the best-selling singles of all time.

17. **C. Frank Sinatra**
    "My Way," released in 1969, became one of his signature songs.

18. **B. Messiah**
    It was first performed in Dublin, Ireland, in 1742.

19. **C. Jamaica**
    He made his name with his band, the Wailers.

20. **D. Soprano**
    From highest to lowest, the usual choir voices are soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

21. **D. Trombone**
    Players move the slide between seven positions to change the note.

22. **C. James Brown**
    He was also known as "the hardest-working man in show business."

23. **B. Michael Jackson**
    Seven of its nine songs were released as singles, and all seven reached the top 10 in the United States.

24. **C. Jerry Lee Lewis**
    Nicknamed "the Killer," he often kicked away the piano stool and played standing up.

25. **D. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March"**
    Wagner's "Bridal Chorus," often sung as "Here comes the bride," usually plays as the bride walks in.

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