

Fall 2011

The Triumphs & Tribulations Of Woman Composers

This semester, our theme is to honor the triumphs and tribulations of women composers throughout history. We began our musicianship class with a discussion of lives of 8 different women composers/musicians beginning with Hildegard Von Bingen (1098-1179) who died 832 years ago! It was fascinating to see that for nearly 1000 years women have struggled to have their voices heard – both literally and figuratively – and to watch the gradual societal transformation that began to allow women greater liberties and freedoms.

Our project this semester will be to honor our women composers by examining the hurdles they overcame as well as the achievements they made. Each student will choose a female composer, and write a short biography that focuses on both a description of their life and a discussion of the obstacles that confined them and the barriers they broke. Don't forget to include something about their life that inspires you! Please print a picture (black & white is fine) of your composer as well.

We will layout all the biographies on a large poster board. We will then create a "Composer Match-It" game on a second poster. Each student will take one or two sentences that highlights something unique about their composer. We will place the labeled pictures of the composers on a second poster board and have people match the short description to the correct picture.

I know we will all enjoy reading about each others' composers and playing the "Composer Match-It" game. We'll see how your parents and siblings do at the December recital when we display it for them!!

The biographies and photos are due on **Friday, Oct. 28th**. Please email me your reports. I will print everything out and have our "Poster/Game" committee put it together. I am looking for volunteers for this committee in addition to Jennifer, Julia C, Laura, Julia B, and Dania. The posters need to be completed in time for our November 9th, Musicianship Class.

I will be happy to help you choose a composer and direct you to reliable biographical sources. Each student should write according to his/her appropriate grade level. Although these will not be graded per se, they will be displayed for everyone to see, so please do your best.

Please feel free to be in touch with me with any questions or ideas you may have!