



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Aiken Sings Strauss – Classics 2010

Using the following websites, answer these questions about Richard Strauss, Claude Debussy, and Alban Berg:

<http://www.richard-strauss.com/>

<http://www.essentialsofmusic.com/composer/debussy.html>

<http://www.biographicon.com/view/qcdz4>

[http://www.biographicon.com/view/0tw6f/Richard Strauss](http://www.biographicon.com/view/0tw6f/Richard_Strauss)

[http://www.biographicon.com/view/jnxmu/Alban Berg](http://www.biographicon.com/view/jnxmu/Alban_Berg)

1. What famous German composer, known for his operas like *Tristan and Isolde*, served as an influence on Strauss, Debussy, and Berg?

2. What musical element that is the lack of a noticeable key signature did Strauss, Debussy, and Berg all use in their compositions?

3. Debussy, Strauss, and Berg share a common time period and some composing methods, but not a common nationality. What countries did the three composers originate from?

4. Debussy's piece *la mer* is meant to musically represent a natural object. What does "la mer" mean in English?

5. In 1905, Strauss released his third opera, which was based on an 1891 play by Irish writer Oscar Wilde. What was the title shared by both the opera and the play?

6. Berg was a student of what musician and composer famous for his twelve tone system of writing music?

7. Strauss wrote many pieces, including *Don Juan*, that were meant to make the audience imagine visual imagery according to the story of the song without using accompanying words. What is the name of this type of musical piece?

8. Both Strauss' *Four Last Songs* and Berg's *Seven Early Songs* feature vocal parts written for this type of singing range, the highest of the female voices?

9. Which of the three composers is noted for conducting and recording many of his own pieces before the end of his life in 1949?

Answers to Questions:

1. Richard Wagner
2. Atonality, or chromatics
3. Strauss – Germany; Berg – Austria; Debussy – France
4. The Sea
5. *Salome*
6. Arnold Schoenberg
7. Tone poem, or symphonic poem
8. Soprano
9. Richard Strauss

NOTE: All activities and worksheets for the Friday Morning concerts were designed by music students from SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Potsdam as part of a project to engage older students in classical music. Thank you Michelle Fecio, Matthew Marco and Kelcie Hanaka.

