



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Gershwin Festival – Classics 2010

Using these websites, answer the following questions about George Gershwin:

<http://www.biography.com/articles/George-Gershwin-9309643>

<http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1033588/george-gershwin-follow-up-to-rhapsody.html?cat=33>

<http://www.gershwinfan.com/George.html>

1. Where and when was George Gershwin born? _____
2. How was George Gershwin introduced to the piano? How old was he?

3. How did Gershwin first learn to play piano?

4. Who was Gershwin's first piano teacher? _____
5. Prior to composing, Gershwin held many jobs in the New York area. Name 3 of these jobs: _____
6. In what year did Gershwin compose his first piece for solo piano, and what was it called?

7. In 1925, Gershwin composed his Concerto in F for piano. Who commissioned this piece? How many movements does it have? Who played solo piano at the premiere?

8. In 1931, Gershwin arranged 18 of his popular songs for advanced level solo piano. What was this collection's title? _____
9. Gershwin wrote the opening theme to his Second Rhapsody with what picture in mind? What was the Second Rhapsody originally going to be called?

10. Where and when did George Gershwin die? How old was he?

Answers to Worksheet Questions:

1. Brooklyn, NY; September 26, 1898
2. His parents bought a second-hand upright piano for his brother Ira; 11 years old
3. He taught himself by following the keys on a neighbor's player piano
4. Charles Hambitzer
5. Making piano rolls for player pianos, playing in night clubs, song plugger in Tin Pan Alley, accompanist for popular singers, rehearsal pianist for Broadway musicals
6. 1916, Rialto Ripples
7. The Symphony Society of New York; 3 movements; Walter Damrosch
8. George Gershwin's Songbook
9. Laborers at work in New York City; Rhapsody in Rivets
10. Hollywood, CA; July 11, 1937; 38 years old

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.