

Itzhak Perlman

- 1945-present
- Israel
- Violin: “Soil Stradivarius” (1714)

Perlman contracted polio at age four. He made a good recovery, learning to walk with crutches. Today, he uses crutches or an electric scooter for mobility and plays the violin while seated. (All solo violinists stand except Perlman)



Schindler's List

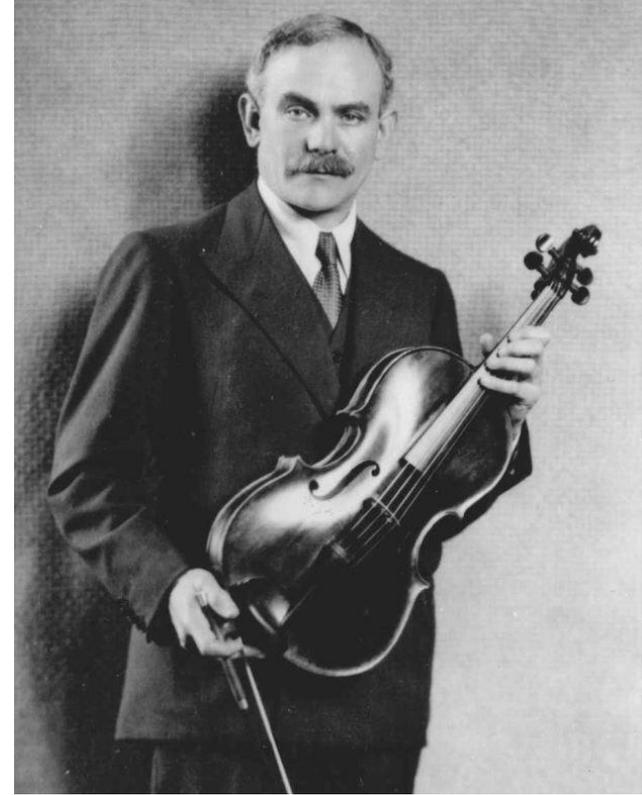
John Williams wrote the score for the movie Schindler's List. The film is based on the life of Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who saved the lives of more than a thousand mostly Polish-Jewish refugees during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories.

- Why do you think the message of this movie was so important to Itzhak Perlman?
- How does this music make you feel?

Lionel Tertis

- 1876-1975
- Great Britain
- Viola

Tertis preferred a large viola in order to get an especially rich tone from his instrument. He commissioned his compatriots to write difficult and excellent solo music for the viola, and is therefore responsible for elevating the viola from its pre-20th Century status as a mostly inner-voice instrument with limited literature to a dignified solo instrument.



Tertis Viola Quartet

This string quartet made up of Munich Philharmonic musicians named themselves after the famous violist in the spirit of his great achievements and love of large violas.

- Do you think their music honors this famous musician? Why or why not?

Yo Yo Ma

- 1955-present
- France
- Cello: “Petunia” Montagnana (1733)



He has over 75 albums, fifteen of which are Grammy Award winners. Ma was named Peace Ambassador by the UN Secretary-General in 2006. He is a famous advocate of music education.

Silk Road

Ma currently plays with his own Silk Road Ensemble, which has the goal of bringing together musicians from diverse countries all of which are historically linked via the Silk Road, and records on the Sony Classical label.

- Is Silk Road a noteworthy cause?
- Do you think that music is a universal language? Why or why not?

Jaco Pastorius

- 1951-1987
- United States
- Electric Bass



An influential jazz musician, composer, big band leader and electric bass player. He is best known for his work with Weather Report. He was inducted into the *Down Beat* Jazz Hall of Fame in 1988, one of only seven bassists so honored (and the only electric bassist).

A Portrait of Tracy

His playing was known for its highly technical, Latin-influenced 16th-note funk, lyrical soloing on fretless bass and innovative use of harmonics.

- What does “fretless” bass mean?
- Based on the solo he plays what do you think Tracy is like?

The Piano Guys

- Formed 2010-present
- United States
- Cello and Piano



They gained popularity through YouTube, where they posted piano and cello renditions of popular songs and classical music. Schmidt and Nelson's music is accompanied by professional-quality videos.

“Peponi” – Cover of Coldplay Paradise

The story behind the song: (excerpt from YouTube description) “Each time we write/arrange a tune we take a journey. We have to admit—this journey took us a lot further than we expected. Retracing our steps reveals several factors that made this a reality. As we started arranging it we had serious writer’s block. Perhaps some of the worst we’ve ever had. In fact, one day instead of writing we went around the entire studio with a can of WD-40 and coated every piece of metal to ensure that we were a squeak-free studio. Then on a whim we decided to back away and take an entirely new approach to the song—an African approach. It may seem random in retrospect, but at the time it was an exciting way to restart the arrangement. It was working, but our journey still was on foot until we called in Alex Boye (vocalist), one of the most talented people we’ve ever met. Alex has this contagious energy that gave new life to the song and to us. He sings the tune in 4 different languages: Swahili, English, Yoruba (his mother’s native language), and Alex’s own African “scat” (we’ll call it...Scafrican) =) Most of the words you hear are translated from the lyrics in the original Coldplay Tune.”

- What other instruments were used to make the music sound African?
- Do you ever get writer’s block like the Piano Guys? What do you do when that happens?

Jascha Heifetz

- 1901-1987
- Lithuania
- Violin:

Dolphin Stradivarius (1714)



He had a long and successful performing and recording career; after an injury to his right (bowing) arm, he focused on teaching. The New York Times called him “the greatest violinist of all time.”

God's Fiddler

This video is a short commentary on the performances and life of Jascha Heifetz.

- Are you impressed by the musical prowess of this famous violinist?
- Why do you imagine some people said that his playing was “cold?”

Kim Kashkashian

- 1952-present
- United States
- Viola



Kashkashian won a 2013 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for the 2012 album *Music for Viola*. She is the founder and artistic director of Music for Food, a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief.

W. A. Mozart K. 423

This is a live radio broadcast from WGBH Boston.
The broadcast was used as an advertisement
for their noble cause “Music for Food.”

- If you could generate charity by sharing music with the world what kind of charity cause would you create?

Pablo Casals

- 1876-1973
- Catalan
- Cello



He dedicated his life to the cello after witnessing a traveling band of musicians in Catalonia, Spain. Casals played at the White House for President Theodore Roosevelt and President John F. Kennedy. In 1963 Casals was awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Song of the Birds

Pablo Casals performed the piece entitled “Song of the Birds” for the United Nations. Before his performance he states that the birds in the song cry “Peace, peace, peace.”

- Why is this an important message to bring to the UN?
- Can you feel his emotion and his spirit through his musical performance?

Edgar Meyer

- 1960-present
- United States
- Bass



An American bassist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. His styles include classical, bluegrass, newgrass, and jazz. Meyer earned a Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album. His collaborators also have spanned a wide range of musical styles and talents.

Helping Hand

Edgar Meyer collaborated with Chris Thile, Yo Yo Ma, and Stuart Duncan to create an album entitled “Goat Rodeo Sessions.” It is an American Blue Grass album involving some of the top advocates of music education in public schools.

- What instruments do we hear and see in this video? (4 of them)
- Do you think that music education is an important part of public schooling? Why or why not?

Vitamin String Quartet

- Formed 1999
- United States
- Violin, Viola, Cello



The group began as an experiment in transforming rock songs with classical instruments. Their albums honor a wide variety of genres, including pop and rock, metal, techno, country, and hip-hop.

Title

This is only an audio performance of the Vitamin String Quartet's rendition of "This is Halloween" from the famous Tim Burton film The Nightmare Before Christmas.

- What playing techniques do you hear?
- The original soundtrack was performed by a full orchestra. Did this rendition of the song represent the full orchestra?

Mark O'Connor

- 1961-present
- United States
- Violin (fiddle)



O'Connor is an American classical, bluegrass, jazz and country violinist, fiddler, composer and music teacher. O'Connor's music is wide-ranging and critically acclaimed, and he has received numerous awards for both his playing and his composition.

Bile Em' Cabbage Down

You have PLAYED THIS TUNE! Mark O'Connor improvises on the original tune that you have performed in class.

- What do you think of the way he played Bile Em' Cabbage Down?
- What other instruments are playing along with Mark O'Connor's fiddle?

Emanuel Vardi

- 1915-2011
- Israel
- Viola



Vardi is one of one two violists in the world to have ever given a solo recital in Carnegie Hall. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music and Temple University. He had the distinction of performing a solo recital at the White House for President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II.

Chopin Nocturne No. 20

Emanuel Vardi also likes to paint in an abstract style. This video features both his prowess on the viola as well as some of the works of art he has created.

- Do you have artistic outlets other than music?
- What do you think of his paintings? Where does he take inspiration for his art?

Jaqueline du Pre

- 1945-1987
- Great Britain
- Cello



She is particularly famous for performing the Elgar's Cello Concerto in E Minor, her interpretation of which has been described as “definitive” and “legendary.” Her career was cut short by multiple sclerosis, which forced her to stop performing at the age of 28, and led to her premature death.

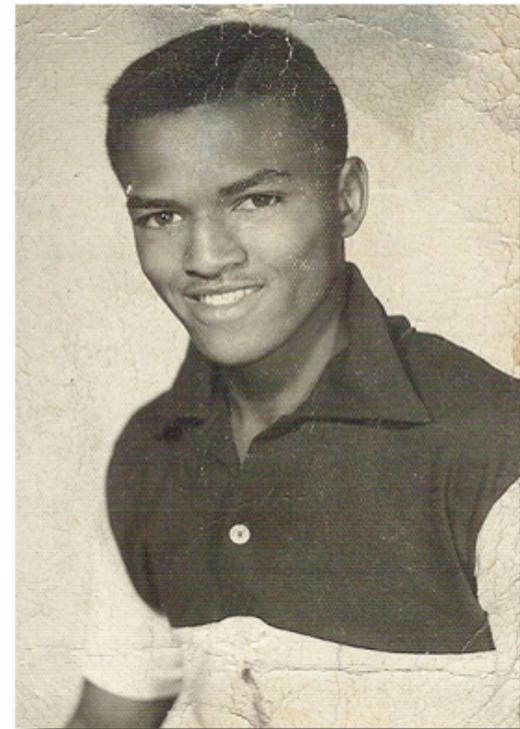
Remembering Jacqueline

This video is a short excerpt from the longer film titled “Remembering Jacqueline.” It discusses her education and passion for the cello.

- What do you think about her mother’s early attempts at teaching Jacqueline?
- What musician on the gift panel have we studied as one of our famous string musicians?

James Jamerson

- 1936-1983
- United States
- Bass



He was the uncredited bassist on most of the Motown Records hits in the 1960s and early 1970s (Motown did not list session musician credits on their releases until 1971) and he is now regarded as one of the most influential bass players in modern music history. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.

James Jamerson

This is a small segment from a documentary about James Jamerson's career as a string bassist in the 1960's and 70's.

- What did James Jamerson have to do to play music with his school friends?
- What does Don Was mean by "bottom of the groove?"

Real Vocal String Quartet

- Album debut: 2010
- United States
- Violin, Viola, Cello



String quartet, string band, vocal quartet, jaw-dropping improvising world-music collective....pick a box and Real Vocal String Quartet will think outside of it.

Machine – Cover of Regina Spektor

The following is a review of “Machine” from James Crel of Strad Magazine: “violinist Alisa Rose’s sophisticated arrangement is carried off with aplomb, the group’s finely textured percussive playing accompanying a clean, stripped-back vocal. It’s a recipe that continues into subsequent songs – the ensemble’s range of pizzicato builds a really strong and distinctive rhythmic feel that makes their performance of folk/pop songs both credible and interesting – not something that many string quartets can pull off.”

- What did you think of the quality of the vocals?
- Does this critical review reflect your feelings on the performance or do you have something different to say?

Midori

- 1971-present
- Japan
- Violin: Guarnerius del Gesù (1731)



When she was 21, she formed the philanthropic group Midori and Friends which aims to bring quality music education to inner-city children in New York City. In 2007, she was selected as a UN Messenger of Peace.

Sarasate Zapateado

Zapateado is a style of dance and traditional music of Andalusian origins in meter 6/8, with lively movement, marked on two beats, the second being very stressed. The dance shows a gracious tapping. The piece is full of harmonics, double stops, left hand pizzicatos, and is often performed by young virtuosos.

- Why do you think Midori chose this song as her Carnegie Hall encore?
- Does the music make you want to dance?

Tabea Zimmermann

- 1966-present
- Germany
- Viola



Tabea has won multiple international competitions, including Genève (1982), Budapest (1984), and Paris (1983) for which she was awarded a superb instrument made by contemporary luthier Étienne Vatelot (1980) which she has played in her worldwide concert tours ever since.

Bartok Viola Concerto

Here we see Zimmermann with the Berlin Philharmonic. As a composer Bartok was known for using nationalism as a source for musical inspiration. He studied the folk songs and traditional songs of many Slavic countries and used them in his works.

- Does this make you think of Slavic countries? Why or why not?
- Do you recognize the viola as a solo instrument?

Luigi Boccherini

- 1743-1805
- Italy
- Cello

Boccherini was a famous classical composer. A virtuoso cellist, Boccherini often played violin repertoire on the cello, at pitch, a skill he developed by substituting for ailing violinists while touring. This supreme command of the instrument brought him much praise from his contemporaries.



Boccherini's "Minuet"

String Quintet in E major, Op. 11, No. 5 was written in 1771 and published in 1775. Being one of his most famous works, the quintet is famous for its *Minuet* third movement (often referred to as "The Celebrated Minuet") which is most-often played as a standalone piece outside of the context of the full quintet.

- Why do you suppose this movement is called "The Celebrated Minuet?"
- Have you heard this song before?

Domenico Dragonetti

- 1763-1846
- Italy
- Bass

He was the friend of Haydn and of Beethoven with whom he played one of Beethoven's Cello Sonatas, transposed for double bass, with the composer on piano.



G Major Concerto (1st Movement)

Dragonetti's style was extremely powerful. Legend has it that one night, while staying at a hotel, he came out onto the balcony in the middle of the night and played his bass with extreme force. The next morning, the people who spent the night there the previous night were heard asking other customers if they "heard the storm."

- Did you enjoy Dragonetti's composition? Why or why not?
- Was the virtuosic style of playing exciting?

Gothard Sisters

- Album debut 2006
- United States
- Violin (Celtic fiddle)



They are all violinists, as well as championship Irish dancers, having won awards in America as well as Ireland. Greta, Willow and Solana originally started as an Irish dance group, then added their violins and now have guitar, bodhran and voice to add to their repertoire.

Three Coins

This song is from the Gothard Sister's album Story Girl released in November 2011.

- Do you think it would be difficult to form a band with your family (assuming you were all musical)? Why or why not?
- Are you interested in listening to more of their music?

Joshua Bell

- 1967-present
- United States
- Violin: “Gibson ex Huberman Stradivarius” (1713)

Bell made his Carnegie Hall debut

in 1985, at age 17. He performed the solo part on John Corigliano's Oscar-winning soundtrack for the film *The Red Violin*.



Kaspar Weiss – *The Red Violin*

Joshua Bell played all of the solo music for the Oscar-Winning soundtrack. In this video we meet the character Kaspar Weiss one of the children under the care of the Catholic monks. The Red Violin has been passed down through many generations to be in his hands.

- Do you believe your instrument will one day be a family heirloom?
- This little boy is classically trained, but has not actually played the recording of this solo. Was his performance convincing?

Cynthia Phelps

- 1961-present
- United States
- Viola

Cynthia Phelps has been principal violist with the New York Philharmonic since 1992. Her solo appearances with the orchestra have included performances on the 2006 Tour of Italy and the 1999 premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Two Paths*, which the Philharmonic commissioned specifically for her.



Principal Violist/Marchenbilder Op. 113

During the first video Cynthia Phelps will speak about her duties as a principal player. She currently sits as principal violist for the New York Philharmonic. It is a VERY PRESTIGIOUS seat. The second video demonstrates her talent for playing the viola.

- Where does the principal player of the section sit?
- According to Cynthia Phelps list three things that the principal player is responsible for.
- List three different techniques Cynthia Phelps uses to play the Schumann.

David Finckel

- 1951-present
- United States
- Cello



Finckel is the co-artistic director of Chamber Music Today and The Mendelssohn Fellowship in Korea. He is also the professor of cello at The Juilliard School of Music.

Bow Pressure Exercises

You are about to get a lesson in bow pressure exercises from the JULLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROFESSOR OF CELLO! Pay close attention we will do the exercises together in class afterward.

- How is this exercise pertinent to string playing?
- Why would we vary the pressure of the bow stroke?

John Patitucci

- 1959-present
- United States
- Bass



Grammy-winning jazz double bass and jazz fusion electric bass player. In 1986, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences voted Patitucci the MVP (Most Valuable Player) on acoustic bass.

Gypsy Swing “Blue Note”

This unusual trio of gifted musicians explores the style of gypsy swing with jazz fusion. Each musician takes a turn at a solo with accompaniment, typical jazz. The recording is made more exciting because it is a live radio broadcast with WNYC.

- Why do you think musicians would record live on a radio station?
- Do you like this style of music? What movie does it remind you of?

2Cellos

- Signed Sony's Label 2011
- Croatia
- Cello



The duo rose to fame after their cover of "Smooth Criminal" became a hit on YouTube, receiving over three million views in the first two weeks. Before they became partners, the two brothers were sometimes considered rivals, competing against each other in music contests.

Thunderstruck

Rising to fame by creating a cover of a rock tune this duo has stayed true to their original fans. Most of their recordings involve “rocking out” on their cellos. Just watch their bows... Kids don't try this at home!

- What do you think the classical composers would think of classical rock?
- Did you like 2Cellos style of playing? Why or why not?

Nicolo Paganini

- 1782-1840
- Italy
- Violin



He was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time, and left his mark as one of the pillars of modern violin technique. His *Caprice No. 24 in A minor*, Op. 1, is among the best known of his compositions, and has served as an inspiration for many prominent composers.

Caprice 24

Jascha Heifetz performs Paganini's 24th Caprice with stunning accuracy and fluency.

- How do you think this was received in the early 19th Century?
- How are musicians testing the boundaries of music today?

Gerard Caussé

- 1948-present
- France
- Viola



Gerard Caussé plays a viola made by Gasparo da Salo in 1560. He gave the first performance of the celebrated *Ainsi la nuit* quartet by Henri Dutilleux.

Telemann Concerto, 1st Movement

Here we witness a chamber orchestra being lead by the soloist Gerard Caussé.

- How does the orchestra manage to stay together without a director?
- What moment in your life is most appropriately represented by this music?

Emanuel Feuermann

- 1902-1942
- Ukraine
- Cello: "De Munck Stradivarius" (1730)



Heifetz declared that talent like Feuermann's comes once every one hundred years. Arthur Rubinstein also declared Feuermann to be "the greatest cellist of all time", even by direct comparison with Pablo Casals.

Chopin's Nocturne on Cello

Frederic Chopin wrote a series of Nocturne's for piano. Feuermann plays one of his most famous nocturne's on cello.

- Have you heard this song before?
- If you were dreaming, and this was the soundtrack to your dream, what would you experience?

Esperanza Spalding

- 1984-present
- United States
- Bass

She is an American jazz bassist and singer, who draws upon many genres in her own compositions. She has won four Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Award for Best New Artist, making her the first jazz artist to win the award.



Little Fly

“Little Fly,” a quiet and melodic piece in which Esperanza sets a poem by William Blake to music. Throughout the piece, Esperanza’s vocals merge seamlessly with her own bass as well as the string trio that surrounds it.

- If you could choose any poem as the lyrics to your own creative composition which would you choose?
- What would the music sound like?

Miracles of Modern Science

- Formed 2005
- United States
- Violin, Cello, Bass



Their musical style stems from modern orchestrations for classical string instruments, which results in self-described "orchestral space pop." An interview on NPR the weekend after the *Dog Year* album release earned the band national recognition.

She Drives Me Crazy

“She Drives Me Crazy” is a song recorded by English group Fine Young Cannibals, included on their 1988 album *The Raw & the Cooked*. The song peaked at Number 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in the US on 15 April 1989.

- Why do you think the band decided to cover this song?
- Name all the instruments in the band (Hint: there are 6).

Monica Huggett

- 1953-present
- England
- Violin

Huggett is famous for her

historical performances in the Baroque style and has won many awards for her prowess. She is the Artistic Director of the Portland (Oregon) Baroque Orchestra and the Irish Baroque Orchestra.



Violin Concerto in E minor “Il Favorito”

This is a performance of the Violin Concerto in E minor by the Baroque composer, Antonio Vivaldi. It is the Andante movement of the work.

- Based on the word “Andante” we can assume what about the tempo of this movement?
- What were the cellists and bassist doing during this movement?
- What did the violin/viola part sound like? Describe the rhythms and pitch.

Karen Dreyfus

- 1957-present
- United States
- Viola

A world-renowned violist, distinguished as a winner of the following international viola competitions: Naumburg, Tertis, Washington, and Hudson Valley. She has been a Julliard School of Music teacher since 2001.



Weiner String Trio Op. 6

In this clip the Amerigo Trio will perform an excerpt of the Leo Weiner String Trio Op. 6. I love it because it has a very involved and vibrant viola part. The Amerigo Trio was originally a quartet, however the group hand played all of the quartet repertoire and decided to explore string trios, and so Amerigo Trio was born.

- What size chamber group do you like most? Why?
- What kind of character does this song make you think of?

Mstislav Leopoldovich Rostropovich

- 1927-2007
- Russia
- Cello



He is considered by many to have been the greatest cellist of the 20th century. In addition to his interpretations and technique, he was well known for both inspiring and commissioning new works, which enlarged the cello repertoire more than any cellist before or since. He gave the premieres of over 100 pieces.

Dance of the Elves

This piece was written by the Bohemian cellist David Popper. His shorter showpieces, such as *Elfentanz (Dance of the Elves)*, were written to highlight the unique sound and style native to the cello extending the instrument's range to heights.

- What did you think about the piece Dance of the Elves?
- If you could give this piece a new name what would you call it and why?

Catalin Rotaru

- 1978-present
- United States
- Bass



He has performed both solo classical and jazz bass throughout Europe, the United States, South America and Japan. Rotaru has been a frequent solo performer at the “Virtuosi” International Chamber Music Festival of Pernambuco in Brazil.

Ave Maria- A. Piazzolla

Ave Maria means “Hail Mary” and is a traditional Catholic prayer asking for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. Based on the greeting of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary in the Gospel of Luke, the prayer takes different forms in various traditions. It has been set to music by many different composers.

- Does this song sound like a prayer to you?
- Do you think slow songs sound better than fast songs when performed on the bass? Why or why not?

Simply Three

- Formed 2010
- United States
- Violin, Cello, Bass



Songs they perform include a variety of invigorating arrangements of popular songs by Adele, Coldplay, One Republic, Michael Jackson, Snow Patrol, and Imagine Dragons, to name a few. Each member of the trio is personally dedicated to enhancing the classical crossover music experience and educating the next generation of musicians.

Happy Cover

This song was originally composed by the pop artist Pharrell Williams. It was arranged and performed by the 'Simply Three' string trio. All three performers are classically trained and attended either the Julliard School of Music or Arizona State University School of Music.

- Do you think they are using their professional degrees?
- Why do you think this group decided to cover pop songs as a career?

Hillary Hahn

- 1979-present
- United States
- Violin



In her active international career she has performed throughout the world both as a soloist with leading orchestras and conductors and as a recitalist. She also has built a strong reputation for championing contemporary music.

Bach Sarabande

Here we will see Hilary Hahn performing one of Johann Sebastian Bach's slower violin pieces. Look at her bow hold and hand position: Flawless. Look at the calm, unruffled left hand, perfect left thumb position, effortless and simple approach in fingering and shifting: Flawless. Look at the bow changes and string-crossing: Flawless.

- There are a lot of double stops in this song. What is a double stop and what is its purpose?
- Do you think that Hillary Hahn represented the Baroque style well in this rendition of the Sarabande? Why or why not?

William Primrose

- 1904-1982
- Scotland
- Viola



In 1953 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. For his contribution to the recording industry, Primrose has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Ave Maria-Schubert

This is by far the most famous of the songs with “Ave Maria” as the title. William Primrose has taken the classic melody laid down by Schubert and arranged it to fit the viola. The video is VERY OLD and the quality of sound is not fantastic.

- Do you like this version for viola and piano?
- How can you tell that the quality of sound is poor? (what you hear not what you see)

Timothy Eddy

- 1964-present
- United States
- Cello: Matteo Goffriller (1728)



He has won prizes in numerous national and international competitions, including the 1975 Gaspar Cassado International Violoncello Competition in Italy. Mr. Eddy is currently Professor of Cello at the Juilliard School and New York's Mannes College of Music.

Beethoven op. 59 Mvt. 3

In this video we will see Timothy Eddy's quartet *The Orion String Quartet* play the Menuetto of Beethoven's Opus 59.

- Why do you think it is important for musicians to collaborate and play together in groups?
- Timothy Eddy puts care and effort into each note that he plays. How can you tell by watching?

Teppo Hauta-Aho

- 1941-present
- Finland
- Bass



One of his most famous pieces, Kadenza, has been played at many music festivals worldwide, and for many competitions. He uses non-standard playing techniques in his pieces.

Kadenza

This video displays Teppo Hauta-Aho's most famous work for String Bass, Kadenza, as performed by Christine Hoock.

- What do you think Christine Hoock does to create such a clean pizzicato sound?
- Write a Haiku (three lines with 5-7-5 syllables respectively) reflecting your feelings on the **TECHNIQUE** of this musical work.

Lindsey Stirling

- 1986-present
- United States
- Violin



She is a violinist, dancer, performance artist, and composer. She presents choreographed violin performances, both live and in music videos. Stirling is a YouTube sensation, her channel has more than four million subscribers and 600 million total views.

Crystallize

Lindsey Stirling's YouTube video "Crystallize" finished as the eighth-most watched video of 2012.

- What do you think of her unique idea to merge music and dance?
- Do you think she is a good composer? Why or why not?

Rivka Golani

- 1946-present
- Israel
- Viola



More than 250 pieces have been written for her, including over 60 concertos. As a teacher, Golani draws students from around the world to her master classes.

Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 1

Critical acclaims for Rivka Golani's performances include:

Financial Times – London: “She stands at the head of today's supreme viola virtuosi - white-hot in delivery, kaleidoscopic in tone colours, electrifying in rhythmic attack, an obvious inspiration to composers.”

Musical America: “...technical wizardry...nothing less than a musical dynamo...”

Music & Musicians: “...an artist wholly at one with her instrument, producing rich, singing tone, and displaying an immaculate technique.”

- Why does her viola have the right shoulder cut out?
- Write your own critical acclaim for this performance.