Nature and Animals in Classical Music

Classical Music · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which bird's song is famously imitated by the flute, oboe, and clarinet in the second movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, the 'Pastoral'?

A) Cuckoo
B) Nightingale
C) Quail
D) Lark

2. Camille Saint-Saëns' 'The Carnival of the Animals' features a famous movement depicting which slow-moving creature with a theme from 'Orpheus in the Underworld'?

A) Tortoise
B) Snail
C) Sloth
D) Elephant

3. In Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons', which season's concerto includes a movement explicitly depicting the sound of barking dogs?

A) Spring
B) Summer
C) Autumn
D) Winter

4. What is the programmatic subject of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending', a famous piece for violin and orchestra?

A) The migration of birds
B) A bird soaring into the sky
C) A forest fire
D) The sound of the ocean

5. Which aquatic animal is famously represented by the cello in the 'Aquarium' movement of Saint-Saëns' 'The Carnival of the Animals'?

A) Dolphin
B) Shark
C) Fish
D) Swan

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6. Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumblebee' was originally written as an orchestral interlude for which opera?

A) The Tale of Tsar Saltan
B) Sadko
C) The Golden Cockerel
D) Scheherazade

7. In 'Peter and the Wolf', which animal is represented by the sound of the bassoon?

A) The Duck
B) The Cat
C) The Grandfather
D) The Wolf

8. Which composer wrote 'The Swan', the only movement from 'The Carnival of the Animals' that he allowed to be performed publicly during his lifetime?

A) Claude Debussy
B) Camille Saint-Saëns
C) Maurice Ravel
D) Gabriel Fauré

9. What natural phenomenon is depicted by the 'storm' movement in the third movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6?

A) A blizzard
B) A hurricane
C) A thunderstorm
D) A drought

10. The piece 'La Mer' by Claude Debussy is a musical impression of what natural subject?

A) The wind
B) The sea
C) The desert
D) The mountains

11. Which large mammal is represented by the double bass in the 'Elephant' movement of Saint-Saëns' 'The Carnival of the Animals'?

A) Elephant
B) Bear
C) Whale
D) Hippopotamus

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12. In Tchaikovsky's 'Swan Lake', which instrument family is most prominently featured in the 'Swan Theme'?

A) Strings
B) Brass
C) Percussion
D) Woodwinds

13. Which insect is the namesake of the piece 'The Bee' by Franz Schubert (not the composer of the symphonies)?

A) Honeybee
B) Bumblebee
C) Wasp
D) Hornet

14. Ottorino Respighi's 'The Birds' uses music to imitate various birds, including which of the following?

A) The Owl
B) The Dove
C) The Hen
D) All of these

15. Which composer wrote the 'Pastorale' symphony, which is deeply inspired by his love for nature and rural life?

A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
B) Ludwig van Beethoven
C) Franz Liszt
D) Johannes Brahms

16. What kind of animal is represented by the 'Cuckoo' in the 'In the Deep Woods' section of Delius's 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring'?

A) Bird
B) Insect
C) Amphibian
D) Mammal

17. Benjamin Britten's 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' uses a theme by which composer, often associated with nature and baroque beauty?

A) J.S. Bach
B) Henry Purcell
C) Antonio Vivaldi
D) George Frideric Handel

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18. Which orchestral work by Antonín Dvorák is named after the Slavic mythological spirit of the forest?

A) The Noon Witch

B) The Wood Dove

C) The Water Goblin

D) The Golden Spinning Wheel

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