

# Keyboard Kids' Companion

Created by Teachers & Approved by Kids

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## Meet the composers Carl Czerny

**C**arl Czerny was born on February 20, 1791, in Vienna, Austria—the year that Mozart died. Carl was an only child, and he never married.

His father, a well-trained pianist, organist, oboist, and singer, was Carl's first piano teacher. After a few years, Carl studied violin with a family friend, Wenzel Krumpholz, who took ten-year-old Carl to meet Beethoven. Beethoven was deeply impressed and agreed to teach him. They remained close friends even after Carl was no longer his student. When he grew up, Carl gave many all-Beethoven concerts, and he was able to perform all of Beethoven's piano compositions from memory. The two were close friends. Carl was also very good friends with Chopin, and they greatly admired each other's work.

Carl became well known as a pianist while he was still a child. He also became well known as a teacher when he was very young—by the age of fifteen, many people wanted to study with him, and they were willing to pay him a lot of money for lessons. He often taught from eight in the morning until eight at night, and then started composing. Some of his students who became famous were Stephen Heller, Theodor Kullak, Theodor Leschetizky, and Franz Liszt. Beethoven took his nephew to study with Czerny.

Carl Czerny was very important as a teacher and composer, and he shaped important ideas about the way people play and teach piano. He wrote many beautiful exercises. He said that scales are a must for any pianist, but constantly reminded pianists to always listen carefully for beautiful tone and expression. He wrote his first compositions at the age of seven. His first published composition was a set of variations for piano and violin on a theme by Krumpholz, his old teacher. His former student, Franz Liszt, dedicated his *12 Transcendental Études* to Czerny, and Claude Debussy dedicated the first of his *12 Études for piano* to Czerny.

Carl Czerny died on July 15, 1857, at the age of 66. He died a wealthy man, and he left his money to charity. He left us with nearly 1,000 compositions, including arrangements and original works for orchestra, chorus, and many different instruments. His most famous works are still played by students all over the world every day—exercises that sound like beautiful compositions. Thanks to Carl Czerny, many students like to practice exercises!



Carl Czerny, lithograph by Josef Kriehuber, 1833



Vienna, Czerny's birthplace, in the 1800s.



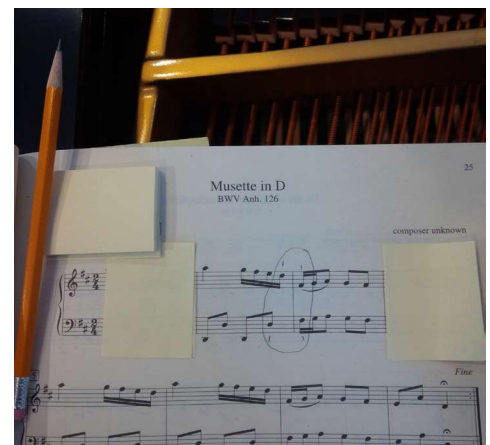
## Practice Check-up Mini Sessions

In the fall, we set a goal for adding ten extra minutes of practice time each day. If you're like many students, by week's end you wish you had practiced more. Careful schedule planning will help make that wish come true. If you divide your practicing into two sessions, you can add just five minutes to each session. Or, try setting aside a separate ten-minute Mini Session each day.

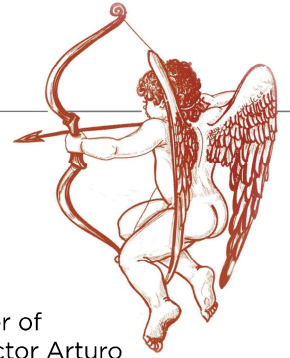
Be sure to set a specific goal for each Mini Session. Include practice strategies such as: Drill leaps for accuracy between measures three and four. Play each hand five times in a row without mistakes. Repeat hands together. Try with eyes closed.

For best focus, use Post-it notes to mark off your Mini Session section. Be sure to keep your Mini Session sections small. Your goal can be fingering, dynamics, articulation, rhythm, balance between hands, accurate notes—whatever your challenges are.

Remember, just ten extra minutes each day is about an hour per week. That adds up to dozens of hours in a year, which means your playing will get better and better!



# Famous musicians **in love**



**Johann Sebastian Bach** married the talented soprano **Anna Magdelana Bach** after his first wife Barbara died. Many piano students today still learn pieces from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*, a collection Bach put together for his wife's birthday in 1722.



**Vladimir Horowitz**

married **Wanda Toscanini**, daughter of the famous conductor Arturo Toscanini. Leonard Bernstein and many others credit her for keeping his life stable and supporting his return to public performing after his twelve-year absence.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** married **Constanze Weber**, niece of composer Carl Maria von Weber. Mozart said she inspired his work. Constanze sang the soprano solo part for the 1783 premiere of her new husband's *Great Mass in C minor*.



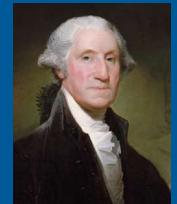
**Louis-Hector Berlioz** married Irish actress **Harriet Smithson**. It took a while to get her attention; his most famous work *Symphonie Fantastique* describes his mixed up feelings of tenderness, extreme excitement, and despair as he waited for her to love him.

**Frédéric Chopin** fell in love with **Aurore Dudevant**, a writer using the name George Sand. During the years they were together, Chopin wrote many of his most beautiful works, including his famous "Raindrop" Prelude. Chopin and Sand never married.



## History in 1791 Carl Czerny's birth year

- First bank in U.S. opens
- George Washington is president of United States
- Machine for making nails patented by Samuel Briggs and son
- Alaska discovered by Danish navigator Vitus Jonas Bering
- Mozart's *Magic Flute* premieres in Vienna



**Robert Schumann** married his piano teacher's daughter, **Clara Wieck**. Her father tried to stop the marriage, and they even ended up in court. She became a famous concert pianist and inspired many of Robert's compositions.

**Richard Wagner** married **Cosima**, the daughter of Franz Liszt. He presented his new wife with a performance of his composition *Siegfried Idyll* on Christmas morning. Mrs. Wagner awakened to a chamber ensemble playing the new composition on the steps at their villa in Switzerland.

## Czerny Double Puzzler

### Directions

1 Read Carl Czerny's biography. Underline the names of people important to his life. Review with your teacher what these people meant to Czerny.

2 Unscramble the letters in the first part of the puzzle to spell the names.

3 Place the letters in the matching numbered boxes to complete the sentence in the second part of the puzzle.

HEOTEENBV

1	15								9

HIPCON

	19		5	11	

LEHREL

	10		6		14

MHZUOKLPR

	3		13			8	

ITHYCZEKLSE

	2	17				12	7		

TSZLI

	18	16	6	4

Czerny instructed that when we play the piano, we must listen carefully for:

		A				F														
1	2	3	4	5	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	8	9

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