



# SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

## JUNE

- 8 Robert Schumann (1810)  
German composer and pianist
- 15 Edvard Grieg (1843)  
Norwegian composer
- 17 Igor Stravinsky (1882)  
Russian-American composer and conductor

## JULY

- 26 John Field (1782)  
Irish composer, conductor, and teacher
- 27 Enrique Granados (1867)  
Spanish composer and conductor

## AUGUST

- 1 Francis Scott Key (1779)  
American author of The Star-Spangled Banner lyrics
- 22 Claude Debussy (1862)  
French composer
- 25 Leonard Bernstein (1918)  
American composer, pianist, and conductor



## Sound Explorations



Summer is a fun time for more exploring, including in music! Many orchestras, bands, and choruses normally plan outdoor concerts and participate in special events, such as parades. This summer many of these events are canceled but many will still occur online. With a parent's help, check your community's social media for performances that you can enjoy this summer. Listen to each composition for the concepts you have been learning in your piano lessons and in *Keyboard Kids' Companion*.

- Try to count along with the music you are hearing. Decide what the time signature might be; do you feel it mostly in three, or in four, or something else?
- If more than one instrument is playing, how many can you identify?
- What tempo marking best describes the tempo? *Largo*, *Allegro*, or *Presto*? Something else?
- Does the piece start in a major or minor key? Does it stay in that key for the whole piece?
- If you had the music in front of you, what would be the quietest dynamic marking you would see? The loudest?

What kind of mood does the composer create by exploring these musical tools and ideas?

# SCHERZO A MUSICAL JOKE

Q. What should you do if you can't pick a favorite section in your music?

A. Call it a tie!

## BEETHOVEN'S TIE



"Beethoven's Tie":

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/IZYtDJV8J\\_frhdISUSKMn330SVGHealBf/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/IZYtDJV8J_frhdISUSKMn330SVGHealBf/view?usp=sharing)