

Pause to learn

Depending on the age, classroom size, and listening skills of your students use the optional pause points below to lead a discussion with your students. Use some of our optional discussion questions below or make up your own! You can also share your reactions from our Time Travelers worksheet as you listen to the episode.

1:46

- Why was the 4th grade orchestra class frustrated?
- Share a time when you were frustrated?
- What helps you to not give up when you get frustrated?

5:07

- Why is writing down music important?
- Share what you know about Mozart and Austria in the 1700s
- Share what you know about an orchestra.
- Share what you know about reading musical notes.
- What traditions are you a part of that you want to help keep alive?

*you can also download our age appropriate Time Traveler worksheets under the activities tab to guide your discussion.

10:44

- Share your reactions to early music.
- How does this music sound different than other music you hear today?
- What was life like in Europe during this time?

12:17

- Share your reactions to Baroque music.
- Share what you know about the American colonies.
- What do you know about Germany, Italy, and England?

14:06

- Share your reactions to Classical music.
- What is your favorite musical genre?
- How does this music sound different than the earlier music we heard?

15:38

- Share your reactions to the Romantic Period.
- If you could be a famous writer, artist, or composer which would you choose? What makes you unique?
- What kind of emotions do you have and why?

17:16

- Share your reactions to modern music.
- How does the American music sound different than the European music? Why?
- What sounds different about this music compared with more traditional/older classical music?

18:45

- What is your reaction to the experimentation in the 1950s?
- Watch this video to see how you can “prepare” a piano to sound like the second piece by John Cage. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34I5iW3vIUo> Run some experiments in the classroom if you are able.
- Composers started working with electronics during this time. Do you use computers or phones to be creative or make music? Share.

20:11

- Do you know any composers living today?
- What is the sound in the first piece? It’s clapping! Can you compose a piece using just your hands?
- What kind of music would you create if you were a composer?

*Access the full musical pieces from our Music Box Time Machine at wuol.org/timemachine.

20:54

- What was your favorite music from the time machine?
- Do you think about classical music differently now?
- Do you have a better name for the classical music genre?