

Name _____ Period _____

Blizzard Bags for 7th/8th Grade General Music

Day 1 – Read the first page on Giuseppe Verdi. Complete the Giuseppe Verdi word search. Use a highlighter to find the answers, then after you've found all the correct words, the eight extra letters that you haven't used will create the Mystery Word. If you use a highlighter, it will be easier to see which letters haven't been used and decipher the Mystery Word.

Day 2 – Complete page entitled "Number Word Game." For this page, you will need to answer the questions from the reading and transfer the letters to the same numbered blanks at the bottom of the page.

Day 3 – Complete the final page entitled "Cryptic Composer Word Story." Each letter is represented by a different letter for example if you see the letter "G" write an "A" above it. You only have to complete the top story, but if you want 5 extra credit points, you can complete the bottom Challenger Cryptic Story.

Name _____

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Period _____

Giuseppe Verdi was born on October 10, 1813, in Le Roncole, a small village in the Parma area of northern Italy. His father was the village innkeeper and grocer. At an early age Giuseppe showed musical talent. When he was ten years old he was playing the three-manual organ in the village church.

Success came early in life. When he was twenty-six, his first opera was well-received; his third opera premiered in 1842—and made him famous. Italy was suffering under the oppression of the Austrians, who had invaded their country and ruled in a heartless manner. Verdi's opera *Nabucco* contained a chorus, "Va pensiero, sull'ali dorate," (Fly, thought, on golden wings"). It is sung by Jewish exiles who express their longing for their homes and freedom. The Italians appreciated this longing and took this melody and Verdi to their hearts. This melody became a symbol of resistance against the hated invader. Later, an acrostic was made on his name . . . Vittorio Emanuele Re D'Italia (Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy). Victor Emmanuel was the man the people wanted to be their king.

Many of the stories of his operas were very poor literary works; he set these melodramatic situations to unforgettable music . . . thus they live. He brought Italian opera to its highest level of development in the 19th century.

The people loved Verdi. A person that was there remarked that it seemed that half of Milan attended his funeral on January 29, 1901. He had requested no music. Suddenly, however, just as a whisper and growing ever louder, a song arose from the people, until at last it was a great swelling of love and grief. The song they were singing was "Va pensiero," the song that had made Verdi a national symbol almost sixty years before.

NOTABLE TRIVIA

In musical markings, *p* stands for *piano*, the Italian word meaning "soft." Verdi used dynamic changes to great effect. However, one would be hard put to follow this marking found in his *Requiem Mass*. . . ppppp. How soft can one get?



GIUSEPPE VERDI OR "VIVA VERDI"

G	I	U	S	E	P	P	E	T	N	Y	C
O	E	D	N	A	G	R	O	L	A	E	
T	O	N	R	A	A	D	I	A	I	A	N
T	T	I	I	O	C	T	T	R	D	Z	S
E	E	L	S	U	U	I	O	V	R	R	O
L	L	N	S	L	S	P	T	A	E	O	R
O	L	R	O	M	E	T	O	I	V	F	S
G	O	V	L	R	O	N	C	O	L	E	H
I	E	T	A	M	O	L	P	I	D	O	I
R	M	E	L	O	D	I	E	S	R	E	P

The nine-letter Mystery Word is the name of a Verdi opera.



WORDS TO FIND

Aida, Cairo, censorship, diplomat, Forza, genius, Giuseppe, Italy, Lind, Loss, melodies, opera, organ, *Otello*, political, revolution, *Rigoletto*, Roncole, Rome, tenor, Verdi

NUMBER WORD GAME

Giuseppe Verdi

Refer to the story section for answers. Place the letters of your answers on the blanks after the clues. Transfer the letters to the same numbered blanks throughout the paragraph below. A story will result.

1. Name the city and country where Verdi was born.

14 5 3 7 1 22 7 14 5 13 6 15 14 2

2. What profession did his father follow?

4 13 14 14 15 19 5 13 1 1 21 5 5 17 5 3

3. Give the name of one of his successful operas.

“ 1 15 18 9 22 22 7 ”

4. One of the songs from *Nabucco* expresses the Italians' yearning for something the ruling Austrians would not permit.

10 3 5 5 12 7 8

5. Why did everyone love Verdi's music? What did it contain?

20 7 1 12 5 3 10 9 14 11 13 1 19 15 18 14 5

6. At that time Austrians were ...

8 5 14 7 12 13 5 11

16 15 6 5 12 13 1 4 15 12 5 3 11



20 16 5 1 4 5 3 12 13 22 7 8 17 14 5 6 5 12 15 1

7 17 5 3 15 16 5 17 14 15 1 6 5 12 15 6 3 5 5

11 7 8 5 15 3 5 15 17 14 15 1 5 6 3 5 5 10 7 3

“ 3 13 19 7 14 5 6 6 7 ” 15 1 7 15 21 10 7 3 “ 13 14

6 3 7 4 15 6 7 3 5 ” 15 20 13 14 14 7 20 10 7 3 “ 14 15

6 3 15 4 13 15 6 15 ”



CRYPTIC COMPOSER WORD STORY

Giuseppe Verdi

Each story has a message in substitution code. (One letter of the alphabet has been substituted for the correct letter.) When you have discovered one word, use the known letters to help decode other words. Use the clues!

RAZEB RUIVZQP UQ AZL LBNUQK UYBIG, TBIKZ'L HRU JUOQP LUQL KZBK;
HABQ AZL RZSB KZBK. HAZL HIGPBKJ KBLUEGHBK AZX NUXYEBHBEJ; ZH
LBXBXK QU XOLZN IBXGZQBK ZQ AZL LUOE. G SIZBQK BQNUOIGPBK AZX;
SZQGEEJ, AB RIUHB "QGWONNU." HAZL UYBIG PGTB AUYB HU ZHGEZGQL,
AUYB SUI SIBBKUX SIUX HAB ZQTGKZQP GOLHIZGQ GIXJ. TBIKZ WBNGXB
HABZI ABIU GQK RGL PIBGHEJ EUTBK HAB IBLH US AZL EZSB.

Here are some clues to help you get started on this Verdi Cryptic Story. A is represented by G; E by B; H by A; M by X; O by U; and T by H.

CHALLENGER CRYPTIC STORY

CWQV IQAMT CFP VTVQNQQV XQFAP SOM, WQ FGGOTQM DSA QVNAFVHQ
NS NWQ BTOFV HSVPQAIENSAX SD BLPTH. WTP FGGOTHENTSV CFP
AQEQHNQM. AQFPSVP OFNQA MTPHSIQAQM—HSVPQAIENSAX
SIQAHASCMQM, WQ CFP F DSAQTKVQA, NSS SOM FVM MTM VSN WSOM
WFVMP HSAAQHNOX TV GTFVS GOFXTVK. XQFAP OFNQA, NWQ
HSVPQAIENSAX CFVNQM NS RQ VFBQM FDNQA WTB. IQAMT FVPCQAQM
NWQTA AQJLQPN DSA NWTP GQABTPPTSV RX AQBFAZTVK, "NWQX
CSLOMV'N WFIQ BQ XSLVK. NWQX HFVVSX WFIQ BQ SOM." TN CFP OFNQA
VFBQM DSA WTB.

Here are some clues for you in the Challenger Cryptic Story. Good luck in decoding this story! A is represented by F; E by Q; L by O; and N by V.