

## HOLIDAY IMPROVISATION

*Use this page to keep a record of your musical creations. Write the date and title of your improvisations. Draw a picture(s) if you would like to, or write a holiday rhyme and set it to music. You may turn your improvisation into a composition by drawing it out on staff paper.*

### SEPTEMBER SUGGESTIONS

(Be aware that dates of some holidays are changeable)

Create a piece about your **Summer Experience**:

A special time you had

A certain sound you heard

A trip you took

One special moment

Anything you saw or experienced that you would like to try to describe musically

**and/or**

Make an improvisation about one of the **September Holidays**:

**LABOR DAY** 1st

**GRANDPARENTS DAY** 7th

**CLARA SCHUMANN** 13th Composer born Leipzig, Germany, 1810

**HILDEGARD OF BINGEN** 17th Composer born Bemersheim, Germany, 1098

**DAVID KRAEHENBUEHL** 17th Composer born Urbana, Illinois, 1923

**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** 23rd

**ROSH HASHANAH** 26th Jewish New Year begins

**CONFUCIUS BIRTHDAY** 28th Chinese philosopher, 551-479 B.C.

**MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS** 29th Feast Day

**OR ANY OTHER HOLIDAY THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU**

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## OCTOBER SUGGESTIONS

(Be aware that dates of some holidays are changeable)

Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays:

- |                           |      |  |
|---------------------------|------|--|
| <b>GUARDIAN ANGELS</b>    | 2nd  | Each persons guide through life's mysteries.   |
| <b>FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b>  | 4th  | Italian mystic. Ministered to the poor. Loved to sing and dance. Wrote first hymn in Italian. Stressed joy in living and love of all creation.   |
| <b>YOM KIPPUR</b>         | 6th  | Jewish Day of Atonement - to make amends for any wrong doing   |
| <b>SUKKOTH</b>            | 15th | Jewish Thanksgiving for harvest  |
| <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>       | 24th | Italian navigator credited with finding America.   |
| <b>ARCHANGEL RAPHAEL</b>  | 24th | The "Shining One Who Heals"  |
| <b>SAINT JUDE</b>         | 24th | Patron Saint of desperate causes   |
| <b>UNITED NATIONS DAY</b> | 24th | "to promote peace and cooperation among the nations of the world"  |
| <b>DOMENICO SCARLATTI</b> | 26th | Composer born Naples, Italy, 1685  |
| <b>HALLOWEEN</b>          | 31st | Eve of all Saints' Day. Originally a Celtic festival to mark the new year, welcoming the spirits of the dead and assuaging supernatural powers. It was introduced to the us by the Scots and Irish immigrants, and is now a children's festival famous for "trick or treat." |

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## NOVEMBER SUGGESTIONS

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**Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays:**

- |                             |          |  |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>       | 1st      | Honoring saints who have died  |
| <b>DAY OF THE DEAD</b>      |          | Aztec Day of the Dead--Day for honoring the departed   |
| <b>ALL SOULS DAY</b>        | 2nd      | Honoring all beloved ones who have died  |
| <b>ELECTION DAY</b>         | 4th      | Expressing our views on issues and candidates  |
| <b>FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS</b>   | 9th-12th | Hindu -focus on peace making and new beginnings  |
| <b>FRANCOIS COUPERIN</b>    | 10th     | Composer born Paris, Francis, 1668   |
| <b>VETERAN'S DAY</b>        | 11th     | Honoring all warriors who fight against evils of all kinds   |
| <b>AARON COPLAND</b>        | 14th     | Composer born Brooklyn, New York ,1900   |
| <b>ST. CECLIA</b>           | 22nd     | Music's Patron Saint born Rome, 3rd Century, AD  |
| <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>     | 27th     | Commemorates the feast held in Plymouth in 1621 by the colonists and members of the Wampanoag people and marked by the giving of thanks to God for harvest and health.<br>Make a piece about something for which you are thankful. |
| <b>JEAN-BAPTISTE LULLY</b>  | 28th     | Composer born Florence, Italy 1632   |
| <b>ADVENT SEASON BEGINS</b> |          | Christian vigil for birth of Divine Son  |

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## DECEMBER SUGGESTIONS

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**Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays:**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** 12th First appearance at Coatlicue/ Tonatzin, Mexico 1531

**LUDWIG van BEETHOVEN** 16th Composer born Bonn, Germany 1770

**EDWARD MacDOWELL** 18th Composer born New York, USA 1861

**WINTER SOLSTICE** 22nd Shortest day/Longest night

**HANUKKAH BEGINS** 20th Jewish Festival commemorating the rededication of the Temple Jerusalem by lighting Menorah Candles

**SCOTT JOPLIN** 24th Composer born Texarkana, Texas 1868

**CHRISTMAS** 25th Begins twelve day celebration of the birth of Jesus

**KWANZA** 26th Begins eight day celebrating positive African cultural traditions

**RAMADAN** 30th Begins Muslim month of purification

**DMITRI KABALEVSKY** 30th Composer born St. Petersburg, Russia 1904

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** 31st Vigil for New Year. Night for making resolutions for new beginnings

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## JANUARY SUGGESTIONS

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<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	1st	New beginnings and day for meditation on peace throughout the world
<b>THE DAY OF EPIPHANY</b>	6th	Adoration of Jesus by Magi
<b>ELIE SIEGMEISTER</b>	15th	Composer born Brooklyn, New York 1909
<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.</b>	9th	Non-violent Christian advocate of rights of African Americans and justice for all people
<b>WORLD RELIGIONS DAY</b>	20th	Day to contemplate all religions as different paths of the one universal Deity of many names and aspects
<b>ALEXANDER TCHEREPNIN</b>	21st	Born St. Petersburg, Russia 1899
<b>CHINESE NEW YEAR</b>	22nd	Year of the ( changes every year)
<b>MUZIO CLEMENTI</b>	23rd	Composer born Rome, Italy 1752
<b>SARASVATI</b>	26th	Hindu festival honoring Goddess of Music & Wisdom
<b>W. A. MOZART</b>	27th	Composer born Salzburg, Austria 1756
<b>ST. BRIDGIT'S DAY</b>	31st -2/2	Celtic/Christian feast of Bridgit - fires were lit as she traveled about blessing fields, animals, people
<b>FRANZ SCHUBERT</b>	31st	Composer born Vienna, Austria 1797

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## FEBRUARY SUGGESTIONS

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Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays, or create a piece in the style of one of the composers, born this month:

### **GROUND HOG DAY**

2nd The legend is that if he does not see his shadow when he first pokes his head out of his hibernation hole then spring has come. If he does, he is so frightened he jumps back in and sleeps for six weeks, and spring is delayed until he wakes again.

### **FELIX MENDELSSOHN BIRTHDAY**

3rd Composer born Germany 1809

### **JEWISH FESTIVAL OF TREES**

6th-7th Celebrated with tree plantings and blessings

### **ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHDAY**

12th Sixteenth US president

### **NAVAJO SING -FESTIVAL**

6th -14th Chanting, dancing, singing in preparation for coming agricultural season.

### **VALENTINE'S DAY**

14th Day to tell people you love them

### **MARDI GRAS**

18th Last day of carnival before Lent

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

25th First day of Lent Christian time of purification, fasting, making up for any harm done and helping those in need.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY** 22nd First U.S. president

### **GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL**

23rd Composer born Germany 1685

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## MARCH SUGGESTIONS

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Use the rhythm of the words of one of these phrases to make a piece.

**"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb"**

**"May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light, May good luck pursue you each morning and night."**

Use a chord progression from, or make a variation on one of the pieces of a composer who has a birthday this month.

Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays.

<b>LENT</b>	Entire month, time of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter
<b>FREDERIC CHOPIN</b>	1st Polish composer, 1810
<b>PURIM</b>	3rd-7th Persian Jews saved by Queen Esther
<b>NAVAJO SING DAY</b>	3rd -14th Blessing fields for planting
<b>GEORGE TELEMANN</b>	14th German composer, 1681
<b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	17th Patron Saint of Ireland
<b>FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH</b>	19th Guide for all fathers
<b>SPRING EQUINOX</b>	20th First day of Spring
<b>JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH</b>	21st German composer, 1685
<b>ARCHANGEL GABRIEL</b>	24th Angel of death and resurrection, vengeance and mercy
<b>BELA BARTOK</b>	25th Hungarian composer, 1881
<b>BIRTHDAY OF HINDU GOD RAMA</b>	28 Destroyer of evil
<b>FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN</b>	31st Austrian composer, 1732
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## APRIL SUGGESTIONS

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Create an improvisation about one or more of the following holidays:

<b>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</b>	1st
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	4th
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	10th
<b>PASSOVER BEGINS</b>	6th
<b>EASTER</b>	11th
<b>EARTH DAY</b>	22nd
<b>BIRTHDAY OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b>	22nd
<b>HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	18th
<b>FEAST DAY OF RAPHAEL, Angel of healing</b>	29th

**OR ANY OTHER HOLIDAY THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU**

**OR MAKE A VARIATION OF ONE OF YOUR PIANO PIECES**