



## Composer of the Month Schedule

In order to expose pupils to a variety of music genres throughout the year, we have compiled a list of diverse, influential composers from throughout history. Each week during assembly time, children listen to work by the Composer of the Month, and learn key facts about them and their work. If you click on the images, you will be able to listen to some of their work and hear what the children are listening to throughout the year.





## Composer of the Month - September

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Born January 1756 in Salzburg, Austria
- Composed music from the age of 5 and performed for royalty at the age of 6
- He moved to Vienna and composed hundreds of symphonies, concertos and operas
- He died at the age of 35 in 1791
- He is considered to be one of the greatest classical composers of all time



## Composer of the Month - October

### Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-Georges

- Born on Christmas Day in 1745
- A French classical composer, virtuoso violinist and conductor of the leading symphony in Paris
- He composed countless symphonies, sonatas, concertos, opera and string quartets.
- He died in June 1799 aged 54
- He is best remembered as the first known classical composer of African ancestry



## Composer of the Month - November

### Florence Price (née Smith)

- Born on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1887 – died June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1953
- An American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher.
- She composed symphonies and concertos as well as writing radio jingles and popular songs.
- She is recognised as the first female African-American symphonic composer and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.



## Composer of the Month - December

### Ludwig van Beethoven

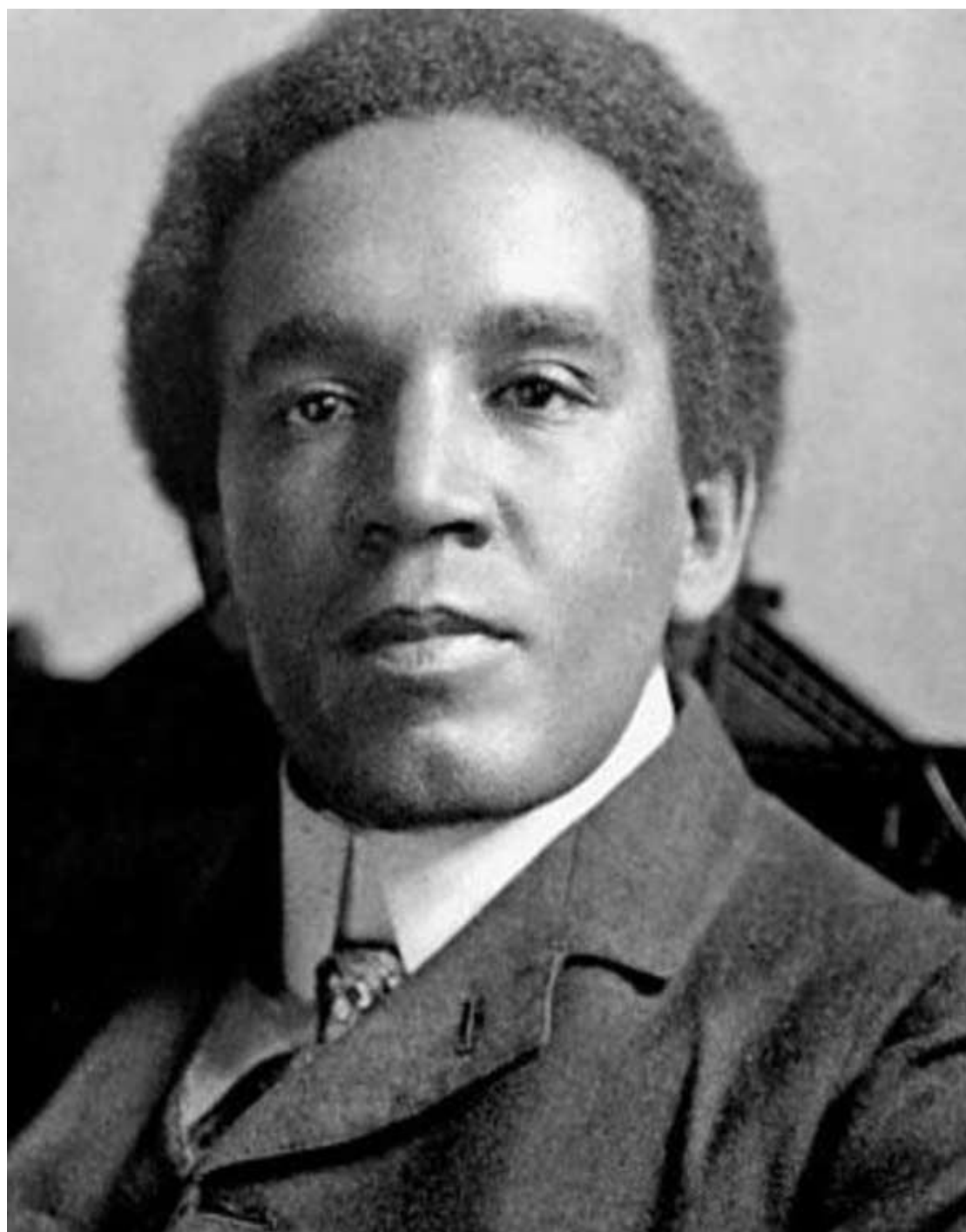
- Born December 16<sup>th</sup> 1770 – died March 26<sup>th</sup> 1827
- Born in Bonn, Germany and moved to Vienna at the age of 21 where he lived the rest of his life.
- He started to go deaf when he was around 30.  
Despite no longer being able to hear well enough to play the piano, he composed some of his best work after he was deaf.
- He is considered one of the most admired composers in the history of music.



## Composer of the Month - January

### Scott Joplin

- Born on November 24<sup>th</sup> 1868 – died April 1<sup>st</sup> 1917
- An American composer and pianist known as the 'King of Ragtime' because of the fame achieved for his ragtime compositions, music that was born out of the African-American community.
- One of his most famous compositions is 'The Entertainer' which was used as the theme tune to the Oscar winning film, The Sting.
- Almost 60 years after Scott Joplin died, his opera Treemonisha was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in music.



## Composer of the Month - February

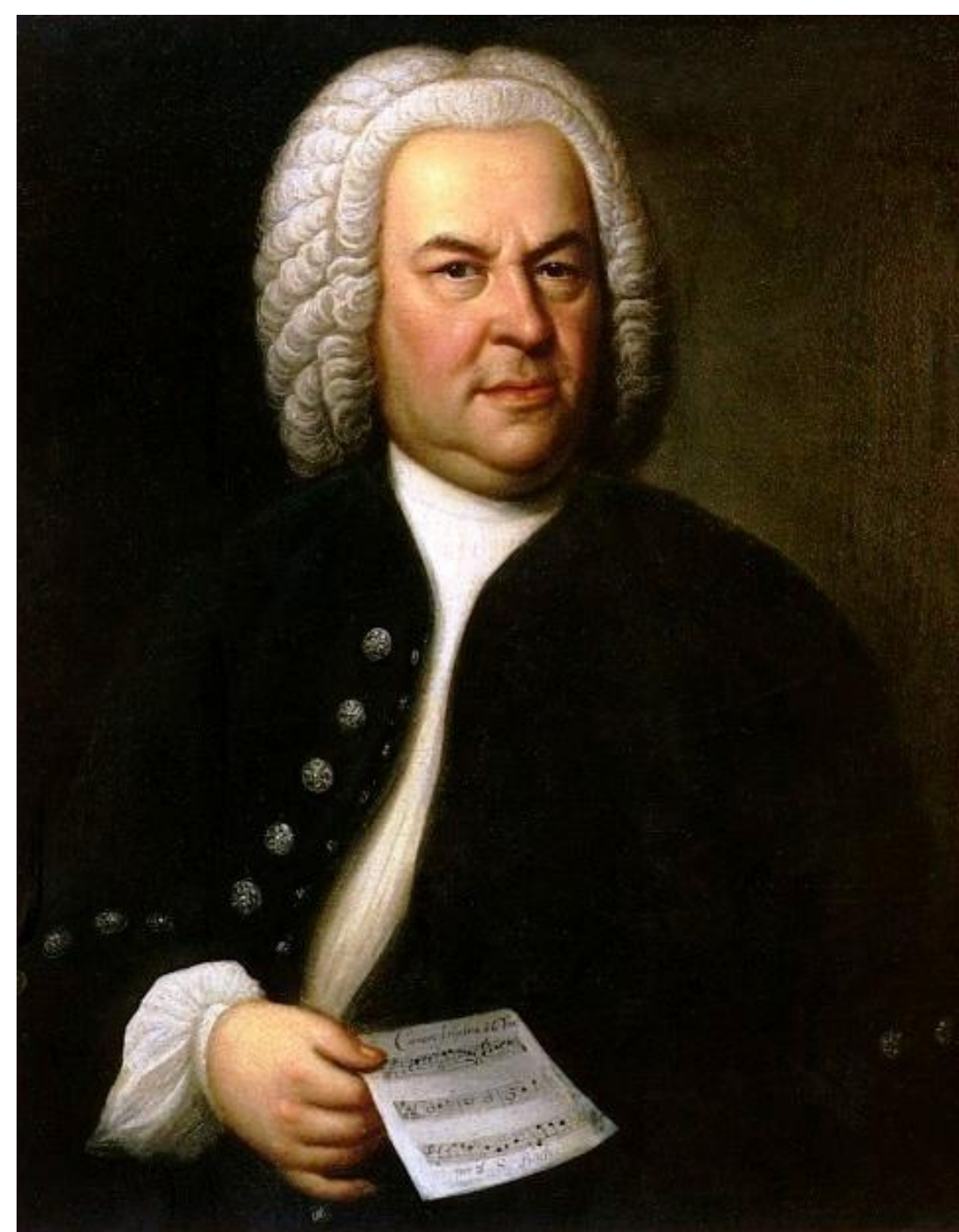
### Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

- Born on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1875 – died September 1<sup>st</sup> 1912 in Croydon, Surrey.
- At the age of five, Samuel began playing the violin and joined the choir of a church in Croydon. He was admitted to the Royal College of Music aged 10.
- Samuel became very well known as a very talented composer. The piece that he is best remembered for is Haiwatha's Wedding Piece, which he named after his son Hiawatha.
- When he died, his wife Jessie was left with very little money so King George V gave her a pension of £100, which shows how popular Samuel had been as a composer.

## Composer of the Month - March

### Johann Sebastian Bach

- Born on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1685 – died July 28<sup>th</sup> 1750
- Johann was born in Germany and came from a long line of composers – over 300 years' worth of Bachs all worked as professional musicians.
- During his lifetime, people thought of Bach as an ordinary working musician. It was only 100 years after his death when Mendelssohn conducted a performance of Bach's 'St. Matthew Passion' that he was recognised for his achievements.
- He wrote music for organs, orchestras, choirs and concertos for many different instrumental combinations. He is now seen as one of the greatest geniuses in music history.





## Composer of the Month - April

### Debbie Wiseman OBE

- Born on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1963 in London
- She is the most popular living British composer for the first time, with four pieces in the Classic FM Hall of Fame.
- She composed a classical album called The Musical Zodiac, for which she is well known and has composed the score for many films and TV programmes.
- She was awarded an OBE in 2018 for services to music.



## Composer of the Month - May

### Wynton Marsalis

- Born on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1961 in New Orleans, USA.
- When he was 18, he moved to New York City to attend Juilliard – one of the world's best schools for drama, music and dance.
- He is the world's first jazz artist to perform and compose across the full jazz spectrum from its New Orleans roots to bebop to modern jazz.
- He is an internationally acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader and educator.

## Composer of the Month - June

### Frederic Chopin

- Born on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1810 in Poland.
- By the age of six, Chopin was already making up new tunes on the piano, having heard his sister and mother play at home.
- At the age of eight, he made his first public appearance, playing piano and three years later he played for the Russian tsar, Alexander the First, at the opening of Parliament in Warsaw.
- He moved to Paris when he was 21 and spent the rest of his life there. He composed over 150 piano pieces in his lifetime.
- Died 17<sup>th</sup> October 1849 in Paris, France.



## Composer of the Month – July

### Francesca Caccini

- Born on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1587 in Florence, Italy.
- She was the most famous female musician in Europe during her lifetime. She composed the first opera written by a woman, which was also one of the first operas ever written!
- She played five instruments and also sang. By the time she was 20, she was working as a musician at the Medici court, where she remained throughout her career.
- In May 1641, she left the Medici court and was never seen again!