

Tic, Tac, True...or Not?

Pick the brains of famous musicians in this game of oversized musical tic-tac-toe. Students must think through the questions as well as the responses given by the musicians to determine the true answers. But they must be careful who they trust—in this game, the “experts” may not know as much as you’d think!

Preparation

- Make nine copies, onto cardstock, of the *sharp* card (found on page 11) and nine copies, again on cardstock, of the *flat* card (found on page 12).
- Determine which 3 x 3 arrangement of students you’d like to use (see below for more information) and arrange the room accordingly.

Rules of the Game

In this game, which is similar to the popular game show *Hollywood Squares*, you’ll need to select nine students to be the musicians/experts. Each will occupy a square in a tic-tac-toe grid and will take on the role of a famous composer or performer of his or her choosing (for suggestions, see pages 13-18).

Arrange these nine students in the 3 x 3 square formation that best fits your classroom situation (see options just below), and provide each student with a sharp card and a flat card.

- Option 1:** Line up 9 desks in a 3 x 3 formation in the front of the room, with one student-square per desk.
- Option 2:** Draw a 3 x 3 grid on the board. Put each student-square’s name in a box. Have the musicians sit together, away from the contestants, and stand when they are selected to participate.
- Option 3:** Have 3 student-squares stand, 3 sit in chairs in front of the standing squares, and 3 sit on the floor in front of the students in chairs. This creates a 3 x 3 formation in which all of the musicians can be seen at the same time.

The host (the teacher) then divides the remaining students into two teams—the Sharps and the Flats. Toss a coin to determine which team begins the game. Have one student from the starting team step up to be the first contestant. This student chooses a “square,” and the host asks that student a question (question lists are provided on pages 55 to 59).

The selected student-square must provide an answer to the question. It doesn’t matter if the answer is right or wrong; what matters is that the square answers the question. The contestant then must decide to agree or disagree with the answer given. The team “gets the square” if the contestant agrees with the square’s correct answer or disagrees with the square’s incorrect answer. If that happens, the square displays that team’s symbol (sharp or flat). If the contestant is incorrect, the square displays the opposing team’s symbol.

After the first team member has finished his or her turn, a member of the opposite team steps up and selects a square. This process continues until a team achieves three of their symbols in a row, just like a win in tic-tac-toe.

Game Options

- Discuss the composers and performers selected as the squares with the students. At the beginning of the game, introduce the squares and share a brief biography with the contestants.



Multiple-Choice Questions

Organized by topic area, the answer to each question is indicated below in bold. Many of these questions may also be read “as is,” without the answer choices, to create additional short-answer questions, while others can be quickly modified—replacing “which instrument” with “name one instrument,” for example.

Instruments/Voice Parts

Strings

1. What is the highest-pitched instrument of the orchestral string family?
 - a. Viola
 - b. Violin**
 - c. String Bass
 - d. Cello
2. A string bass is usually played using which tool?
 - a. Bow**
 - b. Mouthpiece
 - c. Slide
 - d. Plectrum
3. Which instrument is played while held under the chin?
 - a. Guitar
 - b. Cello
 - c. Viola**
 - d. Trombone
4. What is the name of the playing technique in which you pluck a violin’s strings, rather than bowing them?
 - a. Presto
 - b. Fortissimo
 - c. Legato
 - d. Pizzicato**
5. What is another name for a violoncello?
 - a. Violin
 - b. Cello**
 - c. Viola
 - d. Mandolin
6. What is another name for a string bass?
 - a. Double bass**
 - b. Cello
 - c. Bass guitar
 - d. Harp
7. How many strings are on a violin?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4**
 - c. 5
 - d. 6
8. What device is used to slightly change the pitch of each string on the modern harp? (Hint: there are 7 of them.)
 - a. Keys
 - b. Buttons
 - c. Pedals**
 - d. Dials
9. Which type of guitar uses an amplifier to project its sound?
 - a. Electric**
 - b. Acoustic
 - c. Steel
 - d. Hawaiian
10. In which instrument class do the members of the string family belong?
 - a. Aerophones
 - b. Idiophones
 - c. Chordophones**
 - d. Membranophones

Winds

11. To which instrument class do the members of the woodwind family belong?
 - a. Chordophones
 - b. Membranophones
 - c. Aerophones**
 - d. Electrophones