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of



Thomas Jefferson

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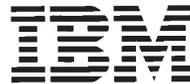
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This activity guide was written and compiled by

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Virginia Chamber Orchestra

The Life and Music of Thomas Jefferson



The tall, lanky 14-year-old boy slowed his horse just long enough to brush the annoying strands of long red hair out of his hazel eyes. A quick glimpse toward the faint outline of the distant Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains showed the sun threatening to disappear below the western ridges. With only two more miles to go on these rough, forested trails, the boy stretched and then adjusted his loose saddlebag. He couldn't help but smile as he gently repositioned the contents inside, which were all the things he loved. Inside were his violin, along with the usual assortment of books and writings that traveled home with him every holiday. A sudden wind blew up from the River Anna to the south of where the boy lived. His horse, now anxious to get home too, began dancing from one foot to the other, hoping his young master would urge him forward. Satisfied that the saddlebag was secured, the boy turned in the saddle and picked up the reins. Legging his horse into a swift canter, the boy almost laughed aloud in new anticipation of greeting his dad at the clearing that corralled his wooden house.

This was spring 1757, and the Virginia Piedmont countryside was already showing its splendor of wildflowers. There was a rider coming up Three Notch'd Tree Road, and Peter Jefferson, the owner of Shadwell Farm, aimed to find out who it was. Within seconds the rider came into full view. It was Peter's son, young Thomas Jefferson.

Who was Thomas Jefferson? You know him as the third president of the United States and as the writer of our Declaration of Independence. He was a brilliant writer and statesman, impressing the Colonial public with his pen rather than his voice. It was through his writing that he fought for the independence of this country and then for democracy. You might agree that this is certainly enough for any one person to accomplish in a lifetime. But wait, there is so much more.

Thomas Jefferson was a man of extensive and varied interests, pursuits, and accomplishments. He was interested in both the sciences and the arts and committed himself to a lifetime of learning, creating, and contributing to others. He was a gifted inventor, philosopher, scientist, architect, musician, gardener, astronomer, and statesman. Jefferson's studies covered a vast assortment of topics, from law and politics to more earthy subjects like trees, wildflowers, and animals. He read hundreds of books, collected volumes of sheet music, bought numerous instruments, and wrote prolifically during his life.

As much as he caught the attention of the public, his first love was to be at home with his family. There, he lavishly shared his hobbies, his books, and—especially—his music. Jefferson said that one of the passions in his life was music. He not only played the violin, but he enjoyed listening to live music and collected every type of music that was available in this country and abroad. Music was the soothing voice that filled many hours with pleasure and escape from his duties as a Virginia politician.

On April 13, 1743, Thomas Jefferson was born in

Albemarle County, Virginia. Virginia was a colony then, not a state. His parents, Peter and Jane Jefferson, lived in a large house on a farm they had named Shadwell. Shadwell was about five miles from Charlottesville and was set in a rural area, not far from the Virginia frontier. Though young Jefferson would enjoy the many benefits of being raised by a wealthy family, his home was in the middle of nowhere by today's standards. The main road, Three Notch'd Road, was more like a trail. In fact, it got its name because local settlers cut three notches in the trees to help travelers find their way. It was the perfect place for a boy to grow up. With six sisters, two brothers, and the river and woods close by, adventures were easy to come by. At an early age, Jefferson learned the name of every tree and plant and how to ride a horse, hunt, navigate a canoe, and run a farm. Best of all, Jefferson learned to have fun, scouting the countryside with his best friend Dabney Carr.

Jefferson began his education at the age of five, when he took lessons in reading, writing, and arithmetic from a tutor. As he grew older, he attended small church schools run at the homes of the reverends who taught. As a young boy, he was not particularly inspired by his early teachers. Because he had to live at the schools, he depended on music and books for his entertainment.

It is not known exactly when he began playing the violin, but by the age of 14, Jefferson already owned a violin and was better than the average player. He not only played "by book," which is how the colonists referred to reading music, but he also played the songs he heard and liked from memory.

Violins were called fiddles then, and the Virginia countryside was full of fiddlers. In fact, fiddling contests were held everywhere, and were as popular then as sporting events are to us today. Jefferson must have heard hundreds of Virginia folk and hill tunes, many of which he liked enough to copy down in his notebooks and later play for himself.

The violin was more than an instrument for young Jefferson. It was his good friend. He filled endless hours playing the violin to amuse himself and ease the pain of missing his home and family while at school. This was only the beginning of what would later become an insatiable interest in music of all varieties, from baroque to ballads, while never forgetting his love of Virginia country tunes.

When Jefferson was 14 years old, his father died suddenly, toward the end of summer. What a terrible thing it must have been, losing his father during such impressionable years. His dad was the one who spent time with him, encouraging a sound education, a love for books and music, and an interest in the surrounding world. Although his mother was a part of his life, she and Thomas did not have the same close relationship that he and his dad had shared. After his father's death, he turned to his older sister Jane for love and friendship. Jane, like Thomas, was full of life and musical talent. She adored her younger brother, and they became very close companions.



Thomas Jefferson's family owned slaves, who worked the land. Slavery was an accepted part of the southern economy and lifestyle during that time period in our country. Although Jefferson later expressed a deep dislike for the system of slavery, he kept slaves all his life.

Slaves made it possible for young Jefferson to continue his education because they were the ones who worked the farm at Shadwell. Jefferson enrolled in a log schoolhouse on the farm of the Reverend James Maury, his new instructor. Reverend Maury, an enthusiastic and well-educated teacher, exposed Jefferson to his library of over 400 books. Jefferson had never seen so many books in one place. After being invited to choose and read the books he liked, a love of literature that would delight him for a lifetime took shape. Jefferson spent two years here, feeding his hunger for knowledge, as he feasted on Greek and Roman philosophy, math and science, and literature of all kinds. He continued to study music, and even took dance lessons, which were expected of the young gentlemen of his time. Whenever the chance arose, Jefferson still loved to ride home to Shadwell, where he spent hours with his sister Jane and his best friend, Dabney Carr.

With Jane, Jefferson played his violin and sang while she accompanied him. The two of them were happiest when they shared their music. Carr, on the other hand, loved to explore the countryside with Jefferson. They rode horses, raced against one another, and then enjoyed resting under their favorite oak tree. It was under the broad-leaved branches of this tree that the two boys shared their many secrets of boyhood and growing up. One of their secrets became a promise. Both boys agreed that whoever should die first would have the honor of being buried under this sacred oak tree.

In 1760, before he turned 17, Jefferson rode his horse 120 miles to Williamsburg, Virginia, where he entered the College of William and Mary. Jupiter, one of the Jefferson family slaves, accompanied Jefferson to Williamsburg to help take care of him. Jefferson studied there for two years, working almost obsessively to master his courses, while disciplining himself to practice his violin for up to three hours a day.

During the Christmas holiday, Jefferson went to a party and met another fiddler named Patrick Henry. The two of them played their violins together and danced with the young ladies all night. Over the next couple of weeks they became good friends. Later, Jefferson would be impressed by Patrick Henry's gift of words in the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he would attack the British Stamp Act.

After two years, Jefferson left college to study law at the office of George Wythe, an accomplished lawyer in town and a good friend. Jefferson would go on to become a delegate to the House of Burgesses where laws were discussed and made for the Virginia Colony. The road that Jefferson chose to follow would inevitably lead him to the presidency.

Williamsburg offered a whole new arena for young Jefferson. It was here that he first entered the society of Virginia, where he learned well his role as a gentleman. He enjoyed Colonial culture here, including dinner parties,

musical performances, and political meetings. Frequently, Jefferson went to concerts with friends after a long day in school. Sometimes he took his violin to make music with others, and they would entertain one another well into the night.

With all that was offered to this young man, Jefferson preferred his times alone to read, write, and play his violin. His solitude was his castle, and his writing and music provided relief from the busy world around him.

During this time in Colonial Williamsburg, music was well loved and sought out by many of the colonists. Remember, there were no CDs or tapes then. People either heard music performed live, or they played instruments themselves for their own pleasure. Concerts could be heard in taverns, churches, private homes, gardens, theaters, or halls. Thomas Jefferson was exposed to French, English, Italian, German, and French music, which further extended his interest and knowledge. In Williamsburg, he took full advantage of the many opportunities to hear, play, and buy music. He also bought instruments and music books on instruction, theory, and history.

Jefferson not only loved music, but he loved horses and preferred riding to taking a carriage. While in Williamsburg, he bought a tiny violin, called a kit. He designed and made a case for it that fit onto his saddle. Now he could take his violin with him wherever he rode his horse! The violin had such a subdued sound that he could play it almost anywhere without bothering others.

In the fall of 1765, Jefferson was once again shattered by the death of a loved one. His sister Jane had become ill and died at the age of 28. The entire family went into the deepest mourning, having lost such a caring and lively member of the family. It was Thomas Jefferson, though, who suffered the most from this terrible loss.

In 1767, Jefferson became a lawyer. At 24 years of age, he dedicated himself to serving his clients, sometimes riding for hours a day to get to their homes. At this time in his life, Jefferson began working on another of his dreams. Through his reading and artistic ideas and observations, he had become interested in architecture. His many drawings indicated a gift for design. He began drafting what would become one of his greatest achievements. On the highest peak of his land he would build a beautiful home and name it Monticello, Italian for "little mountain."

As Jefferson began designing and building Monticello, his political and musical interests seemed to be developing hand in hand. While taking advantage of concerts and learning imported and American music, Jefferson was also getting involved in a powerful network of Colonial politicians. He became good friends with the governor and began associating with young politicians who fervently voiced their growing concern over British tax laws. With the Capitol Building right there, Jefferson was privy to the legislative meetings at the House of Burgesses, where Virginia burgesses (men elected to serve in the House) met to discuss and make laws for the colony. It was at one of these meetings that Jefferson was first dazzled by the electrifying words of his friend Patrick Henry, who delivered a powerful speech against the controversial British Stamp



Act. Although some of the more conservative delegates were horrified and frightened by Henry's words, young Jefferson was deeply moved and impressed. The seeds of democracy were already taking shape in the young lawyer's mind.

In 1769, at the age of 26, he was sworn in as a Virginia delegate to the House of Burgesses. Every county sent delegates as their representatives. These delegates became members of the House and were called "burgesses." As the men voiced their support of Colonial rights, Jefferson was creating and confirming his own political distinctions. He would eventually support Colonial independence, believing that colonists from all 13 colonies should be treated fairly and equally and given a chance to govern themselves. This was considered a radical view back then by the more conservative colonists.

In 1770, two things happened to bring about change in Jefferson's life. His home, Shadwell burned to the ground, causing massive destruction. He lost many papers, books, and other belongings in the fire. A slave rescued his violin and brought it to him.

The second thing that happened was that Jefferson fell in love. He met a beautiful young woman named Martha Wayles Skelton who was lively, interesting, and musically talented. Martha was just what young Jefferson needed. His life was full of learning but devoid of romance. She was small, lovely, and very special, but Jefferson was not the only man interested in her. Several others were pursuing her, hoping to marry her. He would have to think of a way to win her when there was so much competition. How could he be someone special to her? He had an idea. He went to her house with his violin!

Martha loved music. She and Jefferson began singing and playing together, he on the violin and she on her harpsichord. One night two other young men showed up at Martha's house. They were each hoping to win Martha's heart. When they heard Jefferson singing and playing his violin, they knew they didn't have a chance. They were right.

Martha and Thomas Jefferson were married on New Year's Day in 1772. They held the ceremony at her home and then decided to take a carriage to Monticello, which was 100 miles away. It was snowing out, and eventually, they had to abandon their carriage. The two of them got on the horses and rode all the way to Jefferson's home on mountain trails that were heavily blanketed with snow.

Martha not only changed Jefferson's life, but she brought him great happiness and affection. She also shared his love of music, adding a new dimension to his musical pursuits. Over the years, the two of them would collect hundreds of music pieces, as well as numerous string and keyboard instruments for themselves and their children at Monticello.

Jefferson's slaves were part of a community of African Americans at Monticello who contributed greatly to the wellbeing of the plantation. The slaves performed many tasks including fine woodworking, carriage making, planting and harvesting, caring for his children, helping to build his house, preparing his food, and making his furniture. Some slaves were talented musicians who entertained the Jeffersons, their visitors, and each other.

In 1773, at the young age of 30, Jefferson's best friend, Dabney Carr suddenly died. Jefferson was away when this happened, and Carr was buried at Shadwell. Jefferson went home and kept his childhood promise to his friend. He had Carr reburied under their favorite old oak tree.

In that same year, a group of Boston colonists dumped chests of British tea into the harbor, protesting the tax on tea. When the British closed their harbor to commerce in 1774, there was an outcry in Virginia to take a stand to support Massachusetts. Just when Thomas Jefferson would have liked to spend more time at Monticello, he was needed in Williamsburg. This was only the beginning of his many times away from his home, from Martha, and from their little girl Patsy.

The situation between Britain and the colonies had reached a crisis point. By then, the first shots of the American Revolution had been fired in Lexington and Concord. In Philadelphia, a Continental Congress, which had representation from each of the 13 colonies, was meeting. Jefferson was asked to join Congress as a representative from Virginia. This was a difficult time for him because a second baby girl had died, and his wife was now very ill. He stayed with his family as long as he could and then went back to Philadelphia in May 1776 to work with the Congress.

There were many meetings to attend, and Jefferson hated the bickering that went back and forth between the men. Because he fought better with his pen than with his voice, Jefferson rarely spoke up during these sessions. John Adams, his good friend, often marveled at the silence of the young Virginian. Jefferson said everything he wanted to through his writing.

A committee was appointed to write down the reasons for wanting independence from Britain, and five men were chosen. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin were among the five. However, it was the quiet Virginian who was ultimately chosen to write about Colonial independence. He would later be called "The Penman of the American Revolution."

Thomas Jefferson spent the next 18 days alone in his room, wrestling with the words that would make him famous. It was terribly hot in Philadelphia, and it was hard to settle down to write. Remember, there were no air conditioners. Jefferson played his violin for hours at a time, trying to relax enough to write. What he brilliantly created was a one-page document called the Declaration of Independence. It said that all men had certain rights, including freedom and choice of rulers. It said that the colonies were not ruled by Britain anymore and would instead be called the 13 "United States of America."

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, and the members agreed to sign it. All over America, people cheered, rang bells, fired guns, and lit up the skies with fireworks. Thomas Jefferson went home to Monticello and his family.

During the remainder of the war, Jefferson spent a lot of time at Monticello but also resumed his political duties. In 1779, he became the governor of Virginia but resigned two years later because he wanted more time with his family.



During the war, Jefferson befriended several officers who were talented musicians. They and their wives often shared evenings of music at Monticello where they played violin and sang, accompanied by Martha Jefferson on her pianoforte. These musical evenings were great fun for Jefferson and his wife, providing much-needed amusement during a stressful time. The officers, in turn, spoke highly of Jefferson's talent on the violin.

When the war was over, Jefferson had another battle to fight in his own home. His beautiful wife was losing strength after another difficult pregnancy. Out of six children born to the Jeffersons, only three girls were still alive. Now Jefferson faced his greatest fear—losing his wife. Jefferson sat by Martha's side day and night. Sometimes they would write poetic phrases together, with Jefferson finishing what Martha had started. It is hard to imagine that he did not also play his violin for her in these last months, which would have pleased her very much. As Martha neared death, she asked Jefferson never to marry again. He promised that he would not, and he never did. On September 6, 1782, Martha quietly passed away, leaving her husband with three young daughters and a broken heart.

Jefferson was so devastated that he could not talk with anyone, not even his daughters. He refused to eat and would not even come out of his room for days and days. When he finally emerged from his sad enclosure, he saddled his horse and rode many miles over the land he had loved with his wife. His oldest daughter Patsy, who adored him, rode after him. From that day on, she became his constant companion. She and her two younger sisters, Polly and Lucy, needed him now more than ever. His devotion as a father became a strong force in his life.

In 1784, Jefferson was asked to go to France as a minister to Europe. He agreed to go, knowing he would join Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, who were already there. Jefferson left his two younger girls at home and took Patsy with him. During the five years they were in France, Thomas learned a lot about European music. He had arrived during a growth of French violin music and went to an assortment of musical performances that introduced him to a world that had been unknown to him before. Here, he met well-known musicians and composers who were some of the most famous musicians in the world.

Again, Jefferson received some very bad news. While in France, he learned that his youngest daughter Lucy had died of whooping cough. He sent for Polly, wanting both daughters with him now. While he traveled and attended meetings, he made sure the girls were occupied by paying for extensive music lessons to continue what they had learned at Monticello. He wrote many letters to his daughters, expressing his endless love for them. The letters also indicated his desire for them to keep up their music. For Patsy, he bought a fine Kirkland harpsichord, which she treasured and played throughout her life.

In 1787, while still in France, Jefferson received a copy of the Constitution from his friend, James Madison. Madison was one of Virginia's delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Jefferson wrote many letters, expressing his extreme desire to have a Bill of Rights added.

He was worried that without this addition, the Constitution would give the central government too much power. The Bill of Rights was approved by Congress in 1791.

When Jefferson and his girls came home to Monticello, America was a new country with its first president, George Washington. As much as Jefferson wanted peace and quiet now, the president had other plans. Once again, Jefferson was thrown into politics as he took on the duties of secretary of state.

Eight years later, Jefferson found himself in the role of vice president, serving under John Adams. Although the two men had been friends, they were now seeing things very differently. John Adams, a Federalist, believed that only the upper class Americans could be involved in government. Thomas Jefferson, a Republican (this party became today's Democrats), believed that the common people were very capable of governing themselves.

In 1800, Jefferson started campaigning to be the next president, and he was now 57 years old. The country was divided between the Federalists and the Republicans. Jefferson, who did not like to speak in public, began his campaign by writing carefully thought-out speeches to the people. This worked, and a lot of people voted for him.

On March 5, 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the third president of the United States. On his inauguration day, he was expected to ride in the traditional fine carriage to the ceremony. Instead, he walked through the swampy roads of Washington, D.C., all the way to the Capitol Building. By the time he got there, his shoes and pants were covered with mud.

The new president gave a short but powerful speech. Wanting to end the division between his people, he stated that all Americans were both Federalists and Republicans. His hoped to reunite a country once strong enough to defeat the British Army!

Thomas Jefferson was the first president to live in the White House. Washington, D.C., was a swampland then. There was very little culture in this city, and Jefferson was greatly disappointed at the lack of musical influence. Compared to Williamsburg and Philadelphia, Washington was a wasteland. The Marine Band was the one musical benefit Thomas could enjoy. He became quite involved with them and even suggested ways to bring in more European influence and talent to the band.

One of the most important things Jefferson did as president was to double the size of the United States. In 1801, Jefferson learned that France had secretly acquired the land between the Mississippi River and the Colorado Rockies, known as Louisiana, from Spain. This was a lot of land. The Louisiana Territory was as large as the entire United States of America.

Jefferson was already worried about France's leader, Napoleon. He had a very strong army and was happy to conquer new lands. If Napoleon decided to bring his army to Louisiana, Jefferson knew his American Army was no match. He had an idea. He knew that Napoleon was in need of money to finance his many wars. So he sent James Monroe to France to negotiate a price for Louisiana. After many talks, Napoleon agreed to sell his Louisiana to the



United States for 15 million dollars. This was the biggest real estate deal in the history of our country. Jefferson doubled the size of America with this brilliant purchase. By the way, Louisiana consisted of today's Arkansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Montana, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. America was now bigger than all the countries of western Europe combined.

Now Jefferson had another problem to consider. What had he bought? What was this land like? No White man that Jefferson knew of had gone west of the Mississippi River to explore. Only Indians lived out there, and it was anybody's guess as to what else existed. Jefferson also wanted to know if there was a water passage to the Pacific Ocean, which would open up new fur trade possibilities. No one was really sure just how big this continent was.

How many Indian tribes existed? What were they like? Jefferson had always had a keen interest in Indian life. Now was his chance to learn more.

What kinds of animals and plants lived beyond the Mississippi? What rivers would take them to the west coast? Thomas Jefferson, who had never been much farther than 50 miles west of his beloved Monticello, was about to plan an expedition that would change the course of American history.

Thomas asked his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead a group of explorers to the west coast. Knowing the risks involved, Lewis wanted his friend William Clark to help lead the expedition.

The famous Lewis and Clark expedition was a success. After two years and 7,000 miles, the party came back with tons of valuable information. They discovered 122 new animals and found 178 new kinds of plants. They brought back their comprehensive studies of over 40 Indian tribes, some of which were being documented for the very first time. Now Thomas Jefferson could start dreaming of expanding his country all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

In 1804, his younger daughter Polly became very ill. He rushed home to Monticello and did everything in his power to save her. It was no use. After spending precious time with her, hoping to see her revive, she took a turn for the worse and died. There is no way we can know the suffering of this man who had now lost another beloved daughter. They had shared love, music, letters, and friendship.

An old and dear friend began writing to him after his tragic loss. These letters meant very much to Jefferson, and the writer, John Adams, was equally thankful to be back in touch. They wrote to one another for the rest of their lives.

Thomas Jefferson served two terms as president and then decided it was time to retire. In 1809, at the age of 66, he was finally going home to live the life he had dreamed of since he first began to build his beautiful Monticello.

Retirement gave Thomas the opportunity to be surrounded by his daughter Patsy and her family of 11 children, who entertained him for hours at a time. He rose early every morning and rode his horse for miles, enjoying his many interests in the land. He wrote thousands of letters to his friends and admirers and spent time reading.

Patsy and her children gave Thomas endless hours of

joy. He spent many an hour making up games for them to play on his lawn at Monticello. He always hosted the games, starting them and finishing them, wanting to be a part of the children's lives. He was often seen bent over laughing at their antics and imaginations. As they grew older, each had a special relationship with their grandfather, who loved them all dearly.

Music became a strong thread that wove all his family together. Jefferson saw to it that his daughter and grandchildren had the best music instructors and the finest string and keyboard instruments. They all enjoyed playing, singing, and listening to one another or inviting their many friends to join in.

In 1817, when Jefferson was 74 years old, he began working on a project that would again illustrate his artistic and intellectual genius. He began designing the University of Virginia. For years he had wanted to improve the system of education in Virginia, and a great university was part of his plan. When it opened in 1825, Jefferson was so proud that he called it one of his life's greatest achievements.

One day, while riding his favorite horse, Eagle, Thomas fell and severely twisted his wrist. Playing his violin would now become difficult. As he grew old, he spent more time listening to all the wonderful music in his own home. As friends and family gathered around him to play in the evenings, he probably reminisced about all the times in the past when he could still play his own violin. His memories must have resembled a delicately woven tapestry of musical pieces from all over the world.

It was nearing the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and Jefferson knew he was growing old. He prayed he would live to see July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years to the day the Declaration was accepted. Thomas's prayers were answered as the sun appeared over the eastern horizon, beyond Monticello's breathtaking landscapes. Thomas slept most of the day, but at one point he woke up and asked, "Is it July the 4th?" Thomas Jefferson died shortly after noon that day, at the age of 83. His close friend John Adams died a few hours later.

In his last years, Jefferson must have marveled at all he had done during his life. Most of all, he must have been thankful for his family and friends and the cherished books and music that brought the world to his doorstep.

After the death of Thomas Jefferson, several interesting items were found in a drawer in his bedroom. Envelopes containing locks of his wife's and children's hair were discovered, along with a piece of paper that informed the readers of Thomas's last wishes for his burial.

He specified that on his tombstone he would like to have the following written:

Here was buried

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Author of the Declaration of American Independence,
Of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom,
And Father of the University of Virginia;

because by these, as testimonials that I have lived,
I wish most to be remembered.

Time Line of Thomas Jefferson's Life



April 13, 1843	Thomas Jefferson is born.
August 17, 1857	Jefferson's father dies. Jefferson is 14 years old. Soon after, he goes to Reverend Maury's school, where he is inspired to learn.
March 1760	Jefferson enters the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.
1762	Jefferson leaves college to begin the study of law at the office of George Wythe in Williamsburg.
1764	Jefferson inherits his father's land and 22 slaves.
May 30, 1765	Jefferson attends a meeting of the Virginia Colony legislature and hears the strong words of Patrick Henry, who is speaking out against the British Stamp Act.
1767	Jefferson becomes a lawyer.
1768	The mountaintop is cleared for the building of Monticello.
May 8, 1769	Jefferson takes the oath of office and becomes a burgess in the House of Burgesses.
1770	A fire at his home, Shadwell, destroys just about everything. A slave somehow saves Jefferson's violin. Jefferson begins courting Martha Wayles Skelton.
1772	Jefferson and Martha Skelton marry on January 1. Later that year, Martha (Patsy) is born.
1775	The American Revolution begins.
July 4, 1776	The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, is accepted by the Continental Congress.
1778	Maria (Polly) is born.
1779	Jefferson becomes the governor of Virginia.
1781	Jefferson resigns as governor. The American Revolution is over.
1782	Jefferson's wife Martha dies.
1784	Jefferson and his daughter Patsy go to France, where Jefferson acts as minister to Europe and works on trade agreements.
1787	Jefferson receives a copy of the Constitution from James Madison to read over and comment on.
1789	Jefferson comes back to the United States and becomes secretary of state for the first president, George Washington.
March 4, 1797	Jefferson is sworn in as the vice president of the United States. John Adams is president.
March 5, 1801	Thomas Jefferson is sworn in as the third president of the United States.
May 2, 1803	Jefferson buys Louisiana from France, thereby doubling the size of our country.
April 1804	Maria (Polly), Jefferson's youngest daughter, dies.
May 1804	Jefferson sends Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition to explore the west.
1805	Jefferson begins his second term as president.
March 1809	Jefferson retires from political duties and goes back to Monticello. Out of six children, only his daughter Patsy has survived. She and her 11 children will provide him with company and joy for the rest of his life.
1817	Jefferson begins working on the plans for the University of Virginia.
1825	The University of Virginia opens.
July 4, 1826	Thomas Jefferson dies. It is the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Student Survey



After reading Thomas Jefferson's biography and participating in the Electronic Field Trip, you should have a sense of what kind of man Jefferson was. Think about his many hobbies, talents, interests, and pursuits. Think about his hopes, dreams, expectations, and aspirations. You are about to take a survey! A survey is a list of questions that you answer according to your own opinions based on your knowledge of something. This survey is based on your knowledge of Thomas Jefferson. Make sure you understand what you have read about him before taking this survey. If you don't understand something about him or his life, look over his biography again. Rereading is a valuable strategy for gaining insight into written information or a story. You can also ask questions of your teacher or discuss Thomas Jefferson with your classmates. As you read the survey questions, think about your own life and interests. Then have fun answering the questions. Be thoughtful and honest.

1. Thomas Jefferson wrote over 18,000 letters in his lifetime.
Do you write letters? _____
If so, to whom? _____
How many letters do you write a month? _____
2. Jefferson played his violin as much as three hours in a day.
Do you play an instrument? _____
Which one or ones? _____
How long do you like to practice? _____
3. Jefferson loved every kind of music available. He listened to sophisticated European sonatas as well as to rural Virginia hill tunes.
What kind of music do you listen to? _____
What is your favorite type of music? _____
Who is your favorite group or solo artist? _____
When do you like to listen to music? _____
4. Jefferson collected thousands of pieces of music. They did not have CDs, tapes, and records then. Thomas Jefferson collected sheet music!
How many CDs do you have? _____
How many tapes do you have? _____
How many records or albums do you have? _____
5. Jefferson bought and collected many instruments.
How many musical instruments are kept at your house? _____
Is there something else you collect? _____
What? _____
How many items are in your collection? _____
6. Thomas Jefferson was known for his clear singing voice. He loved to sing for his wife, and he often hummed a song to himself when he rode his horse or worked in his garden.
Do you like to sing? _____
If so, what kind of songs? _____
Would you ever sing to someone you were in love with? _____
Why or why not? _____
Do you like to hum while you are doing other things? _____

7. Jefferson was an inventor. He took things apart and put them back together. If he did not have what he needed, he invented it!
Have you ever invented anything? _____
If so, what? _____
If you could invent something, what would it be? _____
Have you ever built anything, like a model, a fort, or an art project? _____
If so, describe one thing you have built. _____
8. Jefferson brought the world to him through his books, letters, and music.
How do you bring the world to you? _____
9. Jefferson loved to draw designs of buildings and gadgets.
What do you like to draw the most? _____
10. Thomas Jefferson attended meetings to find out what was going on in his town and in the 13 colonies.
What do you do to find out what is going on in your school? _____
How do you find out what is going on in the world around you? _____
11. Jefferson had many strengths.
What is your greatest strength? _____
12. Jefferson wanted to know what areas lay beyond the Mississippi River in 1804.
Have you ever wondered about the areas beyond where you live? _____
If so, where would you like to explore and learn about? _____
13. Jefferson loved to read. He had thousands of books in his personal library.
List at least five books that you have read and would love to have in your personal library.

14. Jefferson paid to have music instructors teach members of his family to play instruments well.
If you had the money to hire a music instructor, name two people in your family who would benefit from music lessons.

Could You Be an Inventor?



Thomas Jefferson invented the most amazing things. His inventions served very specific and distinctive purposes, enabling him or others around him to accomplish tasks more effectively and with greater ease. He used the objects he invented and, in fact, had many of them throughout his home at Monticello to make life more manageable.

One thing he invented, which was really pretty simple but did the trick, was a fruit picking and gathering device. Why did he do this? He had many grandchildren who loved to pick and eat the fruit on his land. They were so small, however, that often, they could not reach the juicy treats that grew just a little too high in the trees. Jefferson wanted them to have fun and be happy, so he invented a fruit picker.

Picture this: a long wooden pole with a hook and a small net basket on the end. A child could grab the pole, reach up to the fruit, and pick it off the branch with the hook, and the fruit would drop into the little basket.

You know that Jefferson enjoyed writing very much. He wrote over 18,000 letters in his lifetime. Computers were not around then, so he wrote all his letters by hand. His letters meant a lot to him, and he decided he needed a way to have copies of them.

Now, think about it. What do you want to do if you want a copy of a letter you have written? Do you rewrite it? Or, do you simply Xerox it or make another copy instantly on your computer? Thomas Jefferson did not have the options we have today. His only option was to hand write a second copy. Think how many hours he would have spent copying his own letters, considering the thousands he wrote.

He got an idea. He invented a gadget that wrote the same letter he was writing, at the same time! It looked like a small machine with a metal arm coming out of it. While he wrote one letter, his machine wrote the same letter, at the same time. He must have felt like a genius to come up with such a thing. If only Thomas Jefferson could time travel into our century and play on a computer. He would have a great time.

You are lucky. You are already in the 20th century, and you have access to loads of other peoples' inventions. There must be something you would like to invent, however, that no one else has thought of. Think about all the things you like to do. Is there something you wish you could do, but that you can't do for lack of proper equipment?

Evaluate your own needs and your situation. What could you invent, and what would it do? How would your invention help you or someone else? Write a plan for your invention, and then draw a picture of it, labeling its specific parts.

Chart Your Daily Schedule



Thomas Jefferson read and studied for hours every day that he was in school. When he was in college, he sometimes studied for 15 hours a day. He also made sure he had time to exercise and play his violin.

When he was grown and had his two daughters to care for, he was very strict about their daily schedules. He made sure that they planned specific times to read, to study, to write, to draw, and to practice their music. When he was away from home, he would write them letters almost every day, asking them to stick to their schedules of study and to write back to him, informing him of every new book they read, every drawing they created, and all the music they played.

In a letter to his daughter Patsy, he laid out a schedule for her to follow while he was away. This is the schedule he planned for her when she was 11 years old:

8-10 a.m.	Practice music.
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Dance one day and draw the next.
1-2 p.m.	Draw on the day you dance and write a letter the next day.
3- 4 p.m.	Read French.
4-5 p.m.	Practice music.
5 p.m.-bedtime	Read literature, write, etc.

As you can see, Thomas expected a lot from himself and his children. Look at this schedule. When did Patsy have one hour of free time?

Patsy had to comply to her father's wishes because he also expected her to write back to him, sending him copies of all her drawings, the titles of any books she had read, and the titles of every musical piece she played. Being a loving and dutiful daughter, she always did as he asked.

Think about Jefferson and his daughters with respect to the routines they demanded of themselves. What kind of daily routine do you have? What do your parents expect of you?

Write a schedule of what you are expected to do in one school day. Include school hours, homework, and any other chores or activities you are expected to participate in. Do you have more free time than Jefferson's children had? Why or why not?

Research Topics



Thomas Jefferson had so many interests and pursuits that it would take a lifetime to research them all. However, you might want to research one thing about Thomas Jefferson that would enable you to get to know him better. Here are some topics you might want to research about Jefferson:

Music
Politics
Gardening
Slavery
Building Monticello
Architecture
University of Virginia
Childhood
Friendships
Courtship with Martha
Relationship with John Adams
Relationship with James Madison
Lewis and Clark expedition
Jefferson as president
Jefferson and his books
Jefferson and his family
Jefferson and horses
Jefferson's education
Jefferson and his violins
Jefferson's time in France
The Declaration of Independence
Jefferson's writing
Jefferson and democracy

Music Glossary



Performing Groups

Chamber Music Ensembles	Small groups in which only one player performs each part. These are usually classified by the number of players— <i>duo</i> (2); <i>trio</i> (3); <i>quartet</i> (4). However, a trio sonata actually uses four instruments: two performers, a keyboard player, and a cellist play the bass line.
Chamber Orchestra	A small orchestra of 25 to 40 players. Composers wrote for chamber orchestras until the early 19th century; they are also writing for them today.
Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra	During the 19th century, the orchestra expanded in size. Today a symphony usually has about 100 instruments, divided into four groups: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Jefferson's Library included music from the:

Baroque Period	About 1600 to 1750. During this period, instrumental music became as important as vocal music. Ensemble music has a very prominent bass line. Ornamentation (for example, trills) is another important feature. Composers from this era include Bach, Corelli, Handel, and Vivaldi.
Classical Period	Between 1750 and the early 1800s. General characteristics of music are clarity, formal structure, and emotional restraint. Composers from this period include Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. "Classical music" is sometimes used to refer to music from other periods as well.

Musical Forms

Sonata	A composition with several different independent sections called movements. Each movement has a certain form and character.
Symphony	Orchestral music consisting of several movements; may be defined as a " <i>sonata</i> for orchestra."

Movements

Giga	(English: jig, gigue) One of the dance movements (usually the final one) in a Baroque suite. The time signature is often 6/8, 6/4, 9/8, or 12/8, and the tempo is very quick. The jig was a popular English dance of the 16th century that was later introduced in America.
Rondo or Rondo Form	Often used for the last movement of a symphony from the classical period, especially if it is joyful or playful. The last movement of Haydn Symphony No. 94, which you will hear in the program, is a rondo. One main musical theme is used many times, alternated with one or more contrasting musical ideas. (see example 2 on page 14)
Theme and Variations	One musical idea (theme) is presented and then that same theme is altered (varied) several times. The andante (second movement) from the Haydn Symphony No. 94, which you will hear in "The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson," is in the form of a theme and variations. (see example 1 on the page 14)

Tempo Terms

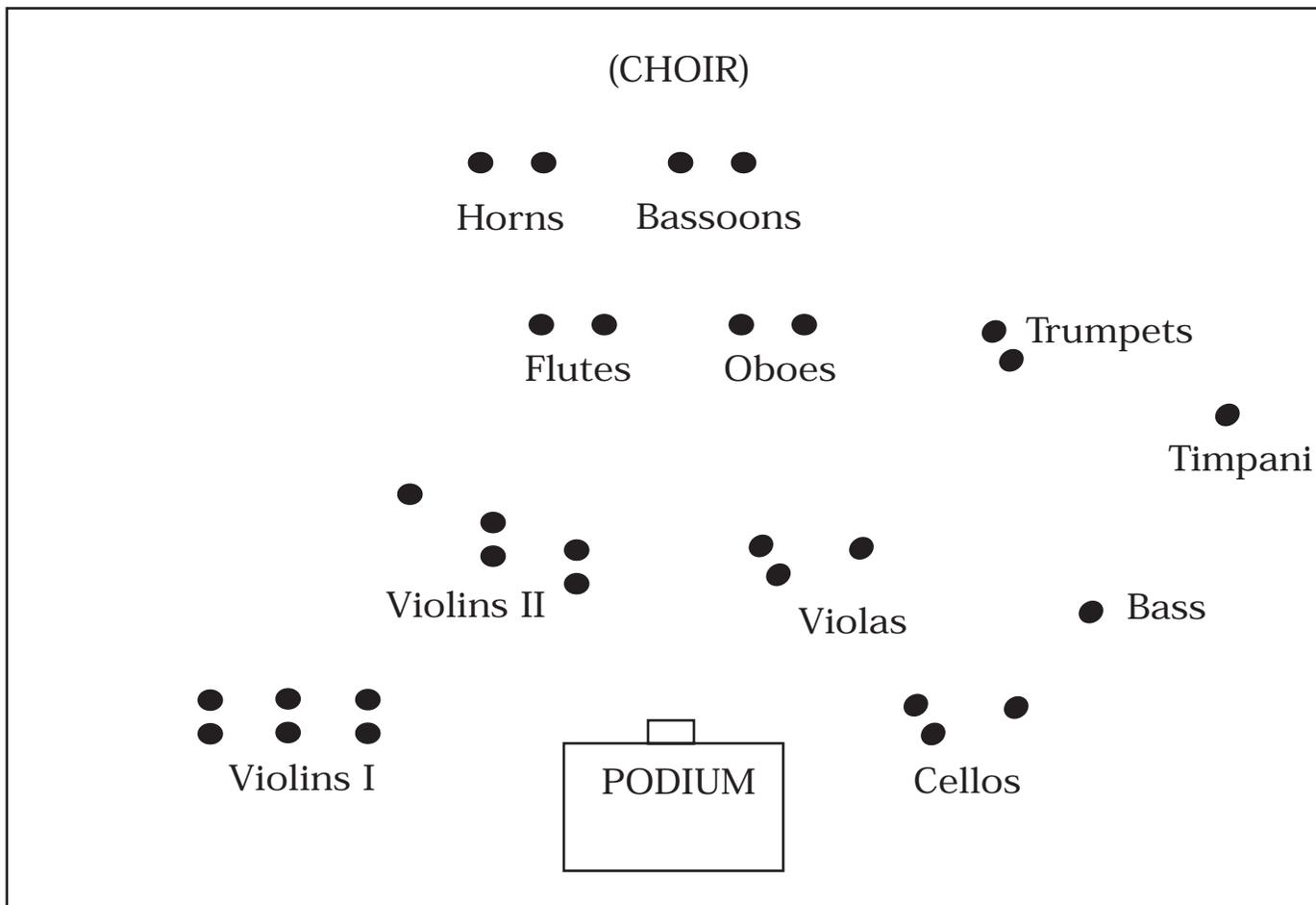
Music itself is an international language. When written words are used in the music—to give the players indications about how it should be performed—they are most frequently in Italian.

Allegro Assai	Indicates "very fast." For example, the fourth movement of the duo by Boccherini performed in the broadcast.
Allegro Molto	Also indicates "very fast." For example, the last movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 94.
Allegro	Indicates a quick tempo (in Italian, "cheerful").
Andante	Indicates a moderate speed. For example, the second movement of Haydn Symphony No. 94 (in Italian, "going, walking").
Tempo	The rate of speed of a piece or of a section of a piece.

Student Activities



1. Thomas Jefferson's large music library included music by many different composers. Some of these composers wrote music that is still being played and enjoyed today. Duplicate the list below.
Here is a list of composers. How many of these names do you recognize? Arne, Bach, Balbastre, Boccherini, Campioni, Chinzer, Corelli, Dibdon, Handel, Haydn, Kammel, Pergolesi, Stamitz, Vivaldi, von Weber, Wodizka (The best known are: Bach, Boccherini, Corelli, Handel, Haydn, Vivaldi, von Weber; also performed today are Pergolesi and Stamitz)
2. Can you name at least one piece written by a composer you recognize from Jefferson's list?
3. Can you think of a composer writing during your lifetime whose music might be played and enjoyed for the next 200 years?
4. Ask students to draw a picture of each instrument that will be heard in the Virginia Chamber Orchestra (see information about the orchestra).
 - a. Use these drawings as flash cards—see if others can recognize each instrument.
 - b. Place a very large piece of paper in front of the class and direct students to tape or pin the pictures of the instruments in the area where their performers will be seated on the stage (see orchestra seating chart on page 14).
 - c. Ask students: "Are there any other ways that the players could be seated if the conductor preferred a different arrangement?"
5. Play the themes from examples one and two on any available instruments, or make up words and sing the themes. The first example on your music sheet is from the "theme and variations" movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 94. Can you make up your own variation on this theme?
6. Play recordings in class. If you have a recording of Haydn's Symphony No. 94, see if the students can recognize the "surprises" in the second movement. How many surprises can they count? Play the last movement and ask them to raise their hands each time they hear the rondo theme.
7. Attend a live concert.
8. Ask a music teacher or performer(s) to visit the class.



Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G, "Surprise"

Example 1

Second Movement: 1st Theme



Example 2

Fourth Movement: 1st Theme



Supplementary Recordings for Students and Teachers



Small chamber ensemble music from the Baroque or Classical periods:

Use any available recordings of duos, trios, quartets, quintets, trio sonatas, or concerti grossi.

Symphonic music:

Haydn: Symphony No. 100 in G Major (“Military Symphony”)—includes unusual percussion instruments for this time—triangle, cymbals—imitating a band of marching Turks.

Haydn: Symphony No. 101 in D Major (“The Clock”).

Music for chorus and orchestra:

Handel: Messiah.

Web Pages



The Colonial Music Institute Resources

www.colonialmusic.org/Resource/Resources.htm

White House: History of Presidents

www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents

The Thomas Jefferson Hour

www.jeffersonhour.org

Monticello Home Page

www.Monticello.org

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