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FRANZ LISZT

The Story of a Boy Who Became a Great Pianist and Teacher

This book was made by

LISZT IN LATER LIFE
9. Name some operas that Liszt produced at Weimar.

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

10. In what Italian city did Liszt live?

____________________________________________

11. Whose songs did he arrange for piano?

____________________________________________

12. How old was Franz Liszt when he died?

____________________________________________

FRANZ LISZT

The Story of a Boy Who Became a Great Pianist and Teacher
Franz Liszt was born on October 22nd, 1811, in Raiding, Hungary.

His father, Adam Liszt loved music and gave Franz his first lessons in piano playing. Liszt's mother was of German blood and was born in Austria.

Little Franz practiced so faithfully and so eagerly, that when he was only nine years old he gave a concert in public. He played so well that some good friends offered to send him to Vienna where he could continue his studies.

And so the little boy left home and began the studies that led him to become the greatest pianist of his time. His piano teacher was a man of whom almost everybody knows. His name was Carl Czerny.

When Franz was eleven he played in public in Vienna. Many great people were there; and among them was one who was greatest of all, Beethoven.

BEETHOVEN
Read these facts about Franz Liszt. Then, using your own words, write a story about him on pages 13 and 14.

1. Franz Liszt was born in Raiding, in Hungary.
2. His birthday is October 22nd, 1811.
3. His father was his first teacher.
4. He studied piano in Vienna with Carl Czerny.
5. Among Liszt's boyhood friends were Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin.
6. After many years as a concert pianist, Liszt became opera conductor at Weimar.
7. He brought out many of the operas of Richard Wagner.
8. He was a great teacher of piano, and many people from Europe and from the United States studied with him.
9. He composed many fine works.
10. Among them are arrangements of many of Schubert's songs.
11. Liszt wrote the life story of his friend Frederic Chopin.
12. It has been said that no musician ever lived who did so much for others as Franz Liszt.
13. Liszt died in Rome in 1886. He was seventy-five years old.

He knew many famous people and we may be sure that everyone helped him. Here are two of Franz's friends of that time.

Franz Liszt had only a simple kind of piano. But he mastered it so thoroughly that he could make people wonder at his art. That is what we learn from the lives of famous people. They are always true to their talent.

After Liszt had traveled many years around Europe, he became a conductor at the Court Theatre at Weimar. This new music work interested him so much that he gave up travel as a concert pianist. He helped many composers by having their operas performed at the Weimar Theatre. Some of the operas that had their first performance there are now famous.

Among these were "Lohengrin," "Tannhauser" and "The Flying Dutchman" by Richard Wagner.
My Peace," "Hark, Hark the Lark."

So we may end by saying that Franz Liszt was a great man who remained simple and big-hearted all his life, and one whom the world loved for what he did.

Players watched every movement of his hands and every look of his eyes so as to play just as he desired.

Franz Liszt was kind to all people who came to him. There was one musician, however, for whom he did a great deal. You know him for he composed many operas. One of them is called "Parsifal." Another is "The Flying Dutchman."

His name was Richard Wagner and one day his operas will give you great pleasure. At first they were not liked by the public. Wagner had few friends and his life was very hard. But Franz Liszt believed in him and in his work.

At first Wagner did not like Liszt. He once said, "I never repeated my first call on Liszt." By this he meant that he wished the acquaintance to end. When Liszt realized that Wagner did not care to understand him, he tried his best to keep the friendship secure. Liszt never wished to misunderstand another human being. So, it was not long before Wagner's opinion of Liszt changed, for he said, later,
FRANZ LISZT

Born

Died

Liszt Quiz

1. When and where was Franz Liszt born?

2. Who was his first teacher?

3. What was his father's occupation?

4. Where was his mother born?

5. With whom did Franz study piano in Vienna?

6. What famous musician did he meet in Vienna?

7. Name two or three people whom he met in Paris.

8. What great composer of opera did he assist?
Then Adam Liszt thought his boy should go to Paris. He wished him to become a student in the conservatory there. But its director, Cherubini, refused to admit Franz to the classes. He then studied with a private teacher. He traveled to England and to all the countries of Europe, giving concerts. His fame was becoming greater and his playing was the delight of all who heard him.

Here are two pictures of Franz as a boy.

![Picture of Franz as a boy](image1)

Franz was only sixteen years old when his father died. They had been good friends and had traveled together and talked with one another about music and musicians. But he went earnestly to work to earn a living for his mother and himself.
Then Liszt did something else at Weimar that endeared him to hosts of pianists. He held classes and taught the secrets of his wonderful playing to those who were talented and could understand. He was the soul of generosity. When someone, who was gifted but could not pay, came for advice, he gave it freely. When concerts did not pay, he himself often took the loss so that others should not suffer.

Even though Liszt moved from Weimar, spending his last years in Budapest, Rome, and elsewhere, he was not idle. There was always a circle of people about him. And always his full-hearted, generous nature kept him at work for the good of others. He reminds us of Beethoven who once said, "Composing is a capital thing. For instance if a friend is in distress and I have no money at hand to help him, I can sit down and compose something which I can sell and so relieve him." It seems that Franz Liszt thought the same for he was forever helping someone else.

When Liszt conducted the orchestra the
"Through the love of this rarest friend I gained a real home for my art."

Once when young Franz was thirteen years old he played before the English King, George IV. Sixty years later he was once more the guest of the English people.

It is pleasant to think of Liszt meeting again and again the friends of his boyhood. When he went to England, on this occasion, he was quite an old man. As he stepped out upon the stage to play, for the last time, everybody, even the people outside of the hall, who could not get in, shouted themselves hoarse.

Those within rose to greet him with tears and cheers that are given only to the kings of the earth.

While we know of this artist chiefly as a great pianist, we shall learn, as we grow older, that he was a great composer as well. He wrote music for piano, for orchestra, for the voice. There are symphonies, masses, oratorios, and cantatas. Once, as a boy, he met Franz Schubert in Vienna. In later years he arranged many of Schubert's songs in a truly beautiful way for the piano,—songs like the "Erl King," "Thou Art
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