

MUSIC

DOCUMENTARY
60 MIN.



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Spotlight On

Pieces of music that remain etched on the memory have been written throughout time. Even though the concept of “hits” did not yet exist in the Baroque, Classical or Romantic era when they were composed. And often, they are just as popular today – if not more popular. What is it about these works that has made them so famous? What makes them so fascinating? When, where and how were they created? Who composed them? What motivated the composer to write this particular piece? How difficult or easy are they to sing or play? Where were they usually played in the past, and where are you most likely to hear them today?

We shine a **Spotlight on** incomparable pieces of music. As well as playing excerpts of the music in question, we visit key locations in the creation process and provide an insight into the life and work of the composer.

01 Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Für Elise” VoD HD

“Für Elise” by Ludwig van Beethoven is one of the best-known pieces of piano music ever written. A catchy tune attempted by most students of the instrument, it’s also one that virtuoso pianists like to perform as an encore. Beethoven first sketched out the piece in the early 19th century, but it didn’t become popular until long after his death, as more and more pianos were sold all over the world. “Für Elise” became an international hit when the French pianist Richard Clayderman released a pop version of the song in the 1970s. The identity of the mysterious Elise named in the title has eluded scholars for centuries.

02 Edward Elgar’s “Land of Hope and Glory” VoD HD

“Land of Hope and Glory” is the most popular British hymn and best-known work of the British composer Edward Elgar. Whether played in the concert hall or the soccer stadium, the music is recognizable to everyone after just a few notes. To this day, the piece serves as England’s unofficial national anthem. A song used to celebrate a nation, but also to take it into war. When its composer realized just how much his work had become associated with death and suffering, he withdrew from public life and ceased composing, devoting himself to observation of the natural world. Nevertheless, he will always be remembered for this hymn above all else.

03 Sergei Prokofiev’s “Peter and the Wolf” VoD HD

The musical fairytale “Peter and the Wolf” is the best-known work by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. But without the Moscow theater director Natalya Sats, he would never have written it at all. It was her idea to commission a piece that would tell children an engaging story while introducing them to the sounds of different instruments. A short time after the work was premiered, Natalya Sats was arrested by the Soviet secret police and taken to a labor camp. The circumstances of her arrest are still a mystery to this day.