

Susana Baca

(born 1944) Peruvian singer

Susana Baca was born in the black coastal barrio of Chorrillos, outside Lima, where descendants of slaves have lived since the days of the Spanish empire. She came from musical environment: her father played the guitar, while her mother was a dancer; and she grew up listening to Cuban musicians like Pérez Prado and Beny Moré.

Baca is an exponent of Afro-Peruvian musical tradition. With a superb voice and impressive interpretive talents to match, she attracted world attention in 1995 with her rendition of "Maria Lando", a heartbreaking ballad of Third World worker oppression. David Byrne included "Maria Lando" in his "The Soul of Black Peru" compilation. Since then, she has toured the United States several times and released several albums, including a solo album titled Susana Baca on Byrne's Luaka Bop label. Baca is particularly interested in revising the interpretation of old Afro-Peruvian melodies. She is at her best when she conveys in her song the unforgettable, hauntingly melancholic lament of a people separated from its homeland by an ocean. Among her songs are: "Maria Lando", "Molino Molero (Crushing Mill)", "Panalivio/Zancudito". Some of the albums she produced are: *Espíritu Vivo*, *Susana Baca*, *Vestido de Vida*.

Baca's singing first came to public attention when she was a student. She formed an experimental group combining poetry and song, and started performing after receiving grants from Peru's Institute of Modern Art and the National Institute of Peruvian Culture. She came to the attention of the composer and singer Chabuca Granda, who became her mentor. Granda encouraged Baca to record, but he died before a recording contract could be made. Baca then turned her attention to researching the Afro-Peruvian tradition. With her husband she founded the Instituto Negrocontinuo (Black Continuum Institute) in Lima, which is dedicated to preserving Afro-Peruvian culture.



Peru 2004
Susana Baca

Carl Philip Emanuel Bach

(1714-1788) German composer.



Malagasy 1988
Carl Philip Emanuel Bach

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach was the second son of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was one of the most influential and celebrated composers of his time. He studied philosophy and law at the universities in Leipzig and Frankfurt where he graduated in 1738. But he never practiced law, instead he decided on a musical career. From 1740 to 1768 he was harpsichordist for Frederick II, King of Prussia, after which he became music director of the five principal churches in Hamburg. His reputation was established by the two sets of sonatas which he dedicated respectively to Frederick the Great and to the Grand Duke of Württemberg in 1746. During his residence in Berlin, he wrote a fine setting of the *Magnificat* (1749), in which he showed considerable traces of his father's influence; an Easter cantata (1756); several symphonies and concerted works; at least three volumes of songs; and a few secular cantatas and other occasional pieces. But his main work was concentrated on the clavier, for which he composed, nearly two hundred sonatas and other solos, including the set *Mit veränderten Reprisen* (1760-1768) and a few of those *für Kenner und Liebhaber*.

Bach's many compositions include religious music, symphonies, concerti (for flute, harpsichord, piano, harpsichord and piano, organ, oboe), organ sonatas, chamber music, and songs.

Ray Charles

(1930–2004) American pianist and musician.

Ray Charles Robinson was born in Albany, Georgia. When he was six, Charles began to go blind, and was totally blind by the age of seven. When he entered show business, his name was shortened to Ray Charles.

Ray Charles was a pioneering American pianist and musician who shaped the sound of rhythm and blues. He brought a soulful sound to country music, pop standards, and a rendition of "America the Beautiful" that was a classic.

Hit songs such as "Georgia On My Mind", "Hit the Road Jack" and "Unchain My Heart" helped him make the transition to pop music. His landmark 1962 album, *Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music*, helped to bring country music into the mainstream.

In 2003 Charles performed "Georgia On My Mind" and "America the Beautiful" at a televised annual electronic media journalist banquet held in Washington, D.C., at what might have been his final performance in public.

Besides winning dozens of Grammy Awards in his career, Charles was also honored in many other ways. Ray's version of "Georgia On My Mind" was made into the official state song for Georgia. In 1981, he was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and was one of the first inductees to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame at its inaugural ceremony in 1986. He received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1986. In 1987 he was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1991 he was inducted to the Rhythm & Blues Foundation. In 2004 he was inducted to the Jazz Hall of Fame, and inducted to the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame. Also in 2004, Rolling Stone Magazine ranked him #10 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.



Grenada Grenadines 1992
Ray Charles



France 1962
Gustav Charpentier

Gustav Charpentier

(1860–1956) French composer.

Gustav Charpentier was born in Dieuze. Even though his family wasn't musically inclined, his parents encouraged his interest in music.

In 1875 he worked in a spinning mill, and gave violin lessons to his employer. Charpentier's musical abilities must have been impressive, for his employer subsequently sponsored Charpentier for entrance into the Lille Conservatoire.

Charpentier was 21 years old when he was formally accepted into the Paris Conservatoire. However, because of his bohemian lifestyle and rebellious attitude he was dismissed from the Conservatoire. He was readmitted in 1885, and studied composition with Jules Massenet. Incredibly, only two years later, the young Charpentier won the prestigious *Prix de Rome* for his cantata,

Didon.

While living and composing in Rome at the Villa Medici -- a condition of winning the *Prix de Rome* -- Charpentier completed a number of important works, including a symphony entitled *La vie du poète*, and an orchestral suite, *Impressions d'Italie*. He also began work on the opera, *Louise*, after which, he wrote three more operas: *Julien ou La vie du poète*, *L'amour au faubourg*, and *Orphée*. Charpentier returned to Paris in 1890 with the libretto for *Louise*, which he had written himself. Many of Charpentier's friends and colleagues suggested that the libretto (about a dressmaker's shop girl and her life in Paris) was too realistic, too crude. After several revisions he finally completed the music in 1896. The opera was premiered at the Opera Comique early in 1900 and was an astounding success. It was an early example of "verismo," and a "realist" drama; most importantly, *Louise* secured Charpentier's fame as a composer and earned him many honors, including election to the Academie des Beaux Arts. In 1900, he was also named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Yoshie Fujiwara 藤原義江

(1898-1976) Japanese tenor.

Yoshi Fujiwara was of British/Japanese birth. He sang roles in both Japanese works and the standard western repertoire, including performances for Seattle's Nippon Kan Theater. In 1934 he founded the Fujiwara Opera Company. Yoshie Fujiwara, who was also a popular tenor and had sung in many performances, took leadership of the Fujiwara Opera for 38 years as the first General Director and left remarkable achievements as the pioneer in the Japanese operatic field.

Fujiwara Opera Company today remains as the only pre-war company still in operation. It is Japan's leading company for French and Italian opera.

In 1930 a biopic of Yoshie Fujiwara was produced. The story is about a tenor, Yoshie Fujiwara (playing himself), who struggles to achieve fame, and then comes to realize that humility and art take precedence over fame (a very "Japanese" theme). Along the way he is supported by a woman, Ayako, who helps him become a star and then is discarded and supplanted by a selfish groupie. The theme of the subplot of the movie depicts the female self-sacrifice which is commonplace in Asian society and culture.



Japan 1998
Yoshie Fujiwara

Wilhelm Furtwängler

(1886-1954) German conductor.



Berlin 1955
Wilhelm Furtwängler

Wilhelm Furtwängler was born in Berlin into a prominent family. His father was an archaeologist and college professor, and his mother a painter. He received a musical education from an early age, and developed an affinity for Beethoven, a composer he remained closely associated with throughout his life.

By the time he was age 20, Furtwängler had made his debut as conductor and had written several pieces of music. However, because of his perception of the financial insecurity a career as a composer would provide him, he concentrated on conducting.

Furtwängler studied in Munich, where he was assistant to the conductor Felix Mottl. He became director of the Mannheim Opera (1915); and in 1920 succeeded Richard Strauss as conductor of the Berlin Opera concerts. In 1922

he followed Arthur Nikisch as conductor of the Gewandhaus concerts in Leipzig. His other appointments included the directorships of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (1922), the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (1930), the Bayreuth Festivals (1931-32), and the Berlin State Opera (1933). He subsequently toured Europe and England with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Furtwängler was offered the principal conductor's post at the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, where he would have succeeded Arturo Toscanini. But a report from the Berlin branch of the Associated Press (possibly ordered by Hermann Göring), stating that he was willing to take up his post at the Berlin Opera, sabotaged the New York offer. The subterfuge to make Furtwängler appear to be a Nazi sympathizer persisted even though he never joined the Nazi Party nor did he ever approve of them.

That did not stop allegations of his collaboration with the Nazis. However an Allied Tribunal absolved Furtwängler of any Nazi complicity.

Furtwängler was perhaps one of the greatest exponents of Romantic music. Known for his passionate, romantic style, he excelled as a conductor of the works of Beethoven and Wagner.



Berlin 1986
Wilhelm Furtwängler

Ignacy Jan Paderewski

(1860-1941) Polish pianist, composer and statesman.

From his early childhood, Ignacy Jan Paderewski was interested in music. He took piano lessons with a private tutor until age of 12, then went to Warsaw and was admitted to the Warsaw Conservatorium. Following his first concert tour of 1876, and after graduating in 1878, he became a tutor of piano classes at his alma mater.

About 1882 Paderewski went to Berlin for advanced study of the pianoforte, and thence to Vienna where he made his debut in 1887. Paderewski's subsequent appearances in Paris (1889); and in London (1890) were major successes. His triumphs were repeated in the United States in 1891. His name at once became synonymous with the highest level of piano virtuosity, and he had the world in his hands.

In addition to his piano virtuosity, Paderewski was also a composer. In 1901 his sole opera *Manru* premiered at Dresden, then premiered in 1902 at the Metropolitan Opera and to this day remains the only Polish opera ever performed there. He also composed many piano works.

Paderewski was active in various philanthropic causes. In 1910 he funded the erection of the Battle of Grunwald Monument in Kraków, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the event. During World War I he gathered funds for the Polish relief fund.

In 1919, in the newly independent Poland, Paderewski became the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and he thus represented Poland at the Paris Peace Conference. In 1922 he retired from politics and returned to his musical life. His first concert, held at Carnegie Hall, was a significant success. He also filled Madison Square Garden (20,000 seats) and toured the United States in a private railway car.



Poland 1919
Ignacy Jan Paderewski



Poland 1960
Ignacy Jan Paderewski



Poland 1988
Ignacy Jan Paderewski



Poland 1986
Ignacy Jan Paderewski



Poland 1999
Ignacy Jan Paderewski



U.S.A. 1960
Ignacy Jan Paderewski

Robert Schumann

(1810-1856) German composer.

Robert Alexander Schumann, one of the most famous Romantic composers of the 19th century, was educated at the universities of Leipzig and Heidelberg. He studied piano with the German teacher Friedrich Wieck who exhorted that he could become the finest pianist in Europe. However, a permanent injury to one of his fingers dashed the hopes of such possibility, and he decided to focus his musical energies on composition. In 1840 Schumann married the virtuoso pianist Clara Josephine Wieck over the strenuous opposition of her father, his former teacher. During 1840, inspired by his love for Clara, Schumann achieved what generally is considered his greatest works when he composed 138 songs of the finest quality. In 1843 Schumann was appointed to the faculty of the newly founded Leipzig Conservatory, but finding himself emotionally unfit for teaching, he soon resigned.

Some of Schumann's more notable works include: *Kinderszenen* and *Kreisleriana* (1838), the *First Symphony* (1841), *Piano Quintet* (1842), *Piano Concerto* (1845), *Second Symphony* (1846) and *Piano Trio* (1847). Among his other compositions are a choral work, *Das Paradies und die Peri* (Paradise and the Peri, 1843). But his *Träumerei* is one of the most famous piano pieces ever written, and has been the favorite encore of several artists, including Vladimir Horowitz. In 1850 Schumann was named town music director at Düsseldorf, advancing mental illness, which had threatened him since adolescence, forced him to resign in 1854. In late February Schumann's symptoms worsened. He warned Clara that he feared he might do her harm. On February 27, 1854, he attempted suicide by throwing himself from a bridge into the Rhine. Rescued by boatmen and taken home, he asked to be taken to an asylum for the insane where he died on July 29, 1856.



Grenada Grenadines 1996
Robert Schumann



West Germany 1956
Robert Schumann



Russia 1960
Schumann and Score from
"Träumerei"



Guinea Bissau 1985
Schumann and Viennese
Pyramid Piano



Monaco 1985
Chopin and Robert and Clara Schumann



East Germany 1956
Schumann and Music Score