

# Classics for Kids



## "Gigue" from Suite in D

**Georg Philipp Telemann**  
Born: March 14, 1681  
Died: June 25, 1767

Georg Philipp Telemann was born in Magdeburg, Germany. He came from a long line of ministers, so everyone expected him to become one too. As a child, however, he showed enormous musical talent, mastering the violin, recorder, keyboard and zither. He also taught himself how to read and write music.

When Telemann went to the university in Leipzig, he was supposed to study law and forget about music. However, his music-loving roommate found out that Telemann was a composer, and arranged to have one of his pieces performed. The next thing Telemann knew, he was writing music for the biggest church in town.

For a while, Telemann was a court composer. Eventually, he became tired of working for counts and dukes; so he became

a municipal music director, first for the city of Frankfurt, and then for Hamburg, a very important German port.

Unlike many composers, Telemann was famous; in his time, he was considered Germany's greatest living composer. He was friends with most of his fellow composers, and was godfather to one of Johann Sebastian Bach's sons; Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach has his middle name!

Much of Telemann's music was written for church use. However, he also wrote for public concerts, and his compositions helped popularize the French-style orchestral suite in Germany. These suites included a series of dance movements. The gigue—or jig, as it is called in English—was originally a lively folk dance. In time, it came to be used as the final movement in an orchestral suite. Follow the map below as you listen to the "Gigue" from the *Suite in D*.

A



B



A



## The Gigue is up!

The *jig* started out as a vigorous folk dance in Ireland, Scotland and northern England. Very popular, it eventually spread to countries all over Europe, where it was danced with enthusiasm. In France, the form was called a *gigue* and in Italy a *giga*. Usually, a gigue is in 6/8 time. This means there are two beats in every measure, each of which is divided into three parts.

Eventually, the *gigue* moved from the dance floor to the concert hall as composers, including Bach, Handel and Telemann, started writing them as part of orchestral suites. These works were made up of several movements, each of which represented a popular court dance of the day. The *gigue* was generally the final movement, as is the case in this month's *Classics for Kids*® piece, Telemann's *Gigue* from his *Suite in D*.

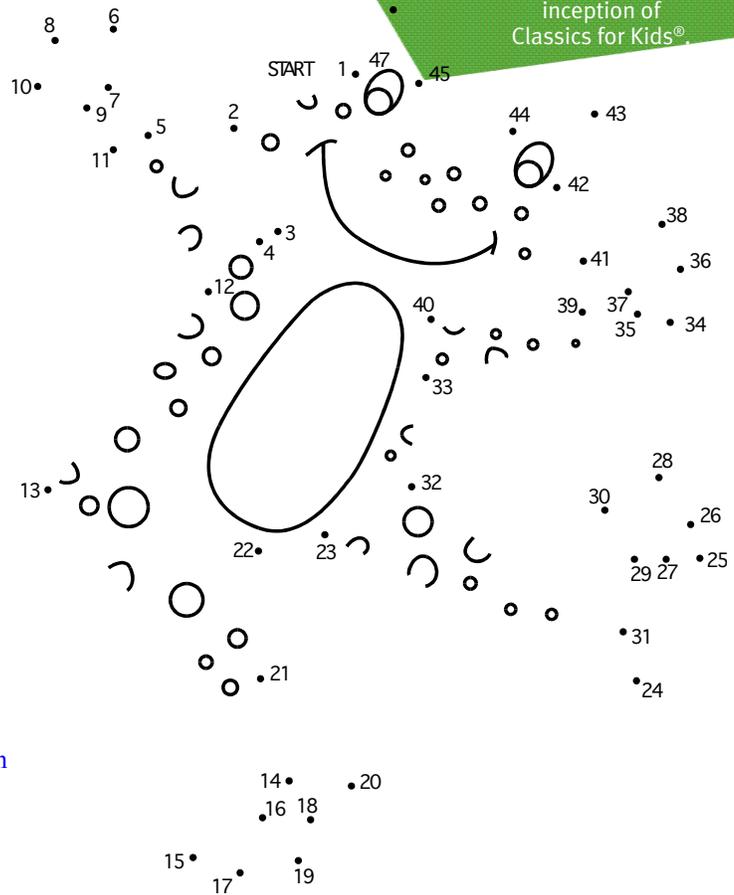
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## Telemann Time Flies



Below you will find a time line of some of the world events that happened during Telemann's lifetime.

- 1681 Composer Georg Philipp Telemann was born (1681-1767)
- 1682 Pennsylvania founded by William Penn.
- 1685 Composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born (1685-1750)
- Composer George Frideric Handel was born (1685-1759)
- 1689 Peter the Great becomes Czar of Russia
- 1692 Salem witchcraft trials in Salem, Massachusetts
- 1706 Benjamin Franklin was born (1706-1790)
- 1707 United Kingdom of Great Britain formed
- 1709 First pianoforte built
- 1732 George Washington was born (1732-1799).
- 1741 Composer Antonio Vivaldi died (1678-1741)  
Capt. Vitus Bering discovers Alaska
- 1756 Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born (1756-1791)
- French and Indian Wars
- 1762 Mozart tours Europe as six-year-old prodigy
- 1765 James Watt invents the steam engine.  
Britain imposes the Stamp Act on the American colonies
- 1767 Composer Georg Philipp Telemann died
- 1769 Sir Richard Arkwright patents a spinning machine-an early step in the Industrial Revolution
- 1773 The Boston Tea Party
- 1776 Declaration of Independence



**Do Composers write long letters?**  
*No, they write short notes!*

## Crossword Time

You can find the answers (the years) in the Telemann Timeline.

### Across

1. First pianoforte built
4. Composer Georg Philipp Telemann died
5. Benjamin Franklin was born
6. Peter the Great becomes Czar of Russia
7. Composer Georg Philipp Telemann was born

### Down

1. United Kingdom of Great Britain was formed
2. The Boston Tea Party
3. French and Indian Wars
5. Salem witchcraft trials
6. Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn
7. Composer J.S. Bach was born

