



THE CLIBURN

CLIBURN KIDS

with Buddy Bray



EPISODE 10: HOW MANY HANDS?

SCRIABIN Prelude for the Left Hand Alone, op. 9, no. 1

TODAY'S WORKSHEET



Alexander Scriabin was a composer and virtuoso pianist from Moscow, Russia. He was born on Christmas Day in 1871. At the end of the 19th century, he injured his right hand by overstretching it during playing, and doctors told him he would never be able to play the piano with both hands again. This was tragic news for the composer, who loved playing the piano and relied on his ability as a pianist to earn a living. While his right hand was recovering from injury, he wrote this piece for the left hand only, as well as a few other works.

HANDEDNESS

You can see in the picture above that Scriabin is writing with his right hand. Everyone has a hand that they naturally use more than others; this is called your **dominant hand**. Your dominant hand is usually stronger and more nimble than your **nondominant hand**, or the hand you use less often. Most people have "chosen" their dominant hand by about age 3. In most cases, people tend to be right handed.

Losing the use of your dominant hand would be extremely difficult! Pianists have to develop equal strength and dexterity in both hands to play the piano well.

Try to write your full name below using your **nondominant** hand.



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What did that feel like? Was it challenging?

What are some things you can do with only one hand?

LISTEN CRITICALLY!

Now let's listen to Buddy play this piece and think about the music!

Close your eyes and listen closely—does it sound like one hand is playing, or two?

Did the music stay in one place on the piano, or did it move up and down the keyboard?

Describe this music. Remember to think about tempo (speed), dynamics (volume and intensity), and pitch (low or high).

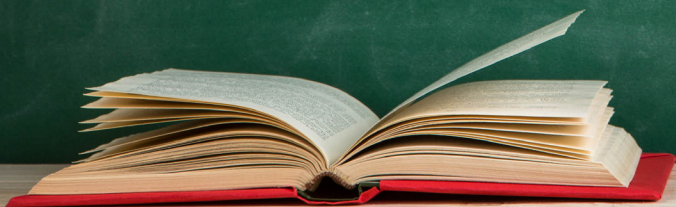
What is the mood of the music? How did it make you feel?



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Do you think the composer was sad when he wrote this piece of music? How can you tell, and what would he be sad about?

GEOGRAPHY

Our composer was from Moscow, Russia. Using the internet as a resource, find and label Moscow on this map of Russia.



What is the capital of Russia? _____

What is the population of Moscow? _____

On what continent is Russia? _____

On what continent is the United States? _____

How many miles away is Moscow from your hometown? _____



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Look up important landmarks in the city of Moscow, and list three of them below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Look up the other major cities in Russia. List three of them here, and include their population. Finally, plot them on the map of Russia above.

1. _____, population: _____
2. _____, population: _____
3. _____, population: _____



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LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

ALEXANDER SCRIABIN 1871–1915

Alexander Scriabin was born in Moscow, Russia, in 1871. His father was a lawyer and his mother was a brilliant pianist. Music was an important part of his early education, and at the age of 16, Scriabin entered the Moscow Conservatory.

Scriabin left the Conservatory in 1892 to pursue a career as a concert pianist. For several years he toured Europe performing his own works in concert. Over his short lifetime, he wrote approximately 100 different works.

Scriabin had the ability to hear a certain sound and associate it with a certain color, a common version of a phenomenon known as synesthesia. He worked to combine color and music in his later pieces. Although Scriabin died at the early age of 43, his music achieved popularity and he enjoyed international fame and recognition during his lifetime.

