

FURTHER RESEARCH

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Pablo Casals

MUSIC

There are hundreds of recordings of Pablo Casals produced by different record companies. You can find clips online at YouTube (www.youtube.com) or download tracks at online music stores. Alternatively, bring a CD into class. The story mentions 'Six Suites for Cello' by J.S. Bach, the music Casals found in a shop in the backstreets of Barcelona when he was a music student. This is a good starting point.

FILM

A Cry for Peace (2002)

An 84-minute film biography of the great cello player. It is directed by Robert Snyder and focuses on his belief in world peace as well as his music.

PRINTED RESOURCES

Joys and Sorrows: Reflections by Pablo Casals

This book was published in 1970 (Simon & Schuster) and is now out of print, but it might be available in a library. Pablo's own words convey his love of music and world peace.

PLACES TO VISIT

- 1 The *Casals Festival* takes place every year in February and March in San Juan, the capital city of Puerto Rico. The festival was founded by Pablo Casals in 1956 and continues today, celebrating the life of the great cellist.
- 2 The Prades Festival described in the story was renamed the *Pablo Casals Festival* in 1982, and continues to take place every August in Prades, France, celebrating chamber music, which is music written for a small group of performers.

Louis Armstrong

MUSIC

Listen to and watch Louis Armstrong play the trumpet and perform his most famous songs on video websites like YouTube. Look for 'Ain't Misbehavin'', 'Hello, Dolly!' and 'What a Wonderful World'. Alternatively, there are thousands of recordings produced by different record companies

FILM

Armstrong appeared in 31 feature films, as both an actor and a musician. You can find a filmography at www.imdb.com, which divides his films into soundtrack and actor. If you are using a DVD, you may like to select the English language subtitles option to help students follow the dialogue. Try an extract featuring Louis from the film *Pennies from Heaven* (1936), which also stars Bing Crosby.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.biography.com/people/louis-armstrong-9188912

A thorough biography of Armstrong's life, including an interesting video.

PLACES TO VISIT

The *Louis Armstrong House Museum* is in the Queens' area of New York City, near LaGuardia Airport, USA. There is a lot of information about Louis on the museum's website: www.louisarmstronghouse.org.

FURTHER RESEARCH (CONTINUED)

Frank Sinatra

MUSIC

Listen to and watch Frank Sinatra sing his most famous songs on video websites like YouTube. Look for 'Fly Me to the Moon', 'New York, New York', 'Strangers in the Night' and 'My Way'. Alternatively, there are thousands of recordings produced by different record companies.

FILM

Sinatra appeared in many films as an actor, and his music continues to appear on the soundtrack of many more. You can find a filmography at www.imdb.com, which divides his films into soundtrack and actor. If you are using a DVD, you may like to select the English language subtitles option to help students follow the dialogue. Try an extract from the classic musical *Guys and Dolls* (1955) and the adventure film *Ocean's 11* (1960), which stars the Rat Pack.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- 1 www.sinatra.com
The official website contains lots of information about all aspects of Frank's life and work.
- 2 www.azlyrics.com
Find lyrics to all of Sinatra's classic songs on websites such as this. (There are many others if this one doesn't have the song you're looking for.)

PRINTED RESOURCES

Frank: The Making of a Legend (Sphere Books, 2010, 2012) by James Kaplan

An authoritative biography covering all aspects of Sinatra's life, including many of the performer's darker moments. (Not suitable for younger readers.)

Edith Piaf

MUSIC

Listen to and watch Edith sing her most famous songs on video websites like YouTube (www.youtube.com). Look for 'La vie en rose' and 'Non, je ne regrette rien'. Alternatively, there are thousands of recordings produced by different record companies.

FILM

La Vie En Rose (2007)

A French-language biopic starring Marion Cotillard as Édith.

PRINTED RESOURCES

No Regrets: The Life of Édith Piaf (Bloomsbury Books, 2012) by Carolyn Burke

A thorough biography of Édith Piaf. (Not suitable for younger readers.)

PLACES TO VISIT

Paris, France

There are Edith Piaf sites to visit all over Paris, including the Moulin Rouge, where Piaf performed just days after Paris was liberated from the Nazis in 1944, and the Père Lachaise cemetery, where she is buried.

FURTHER RESEARCH (CONTINUED)

Maria Callas

MUSIC

Listen to and watch Maria Callas sing her most famous arias on video websites like YouTube. Look for 'Casta Diva' from Bellini's *Norma* and 'Un Bel Di Vedremo' from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Alternatively, there are thousands of recordings produced by different record companies.

FILM

Medea (1969)

Maria played the title role in this film, directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. This is her only film performance and she doesn't sing. Note: this film is in Italian, not English.

THEATRE

Master Class (1995)

Terrence McNally's play is about Maria towards the end of her life, when she is teaching young singers and reflecting on her own life.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- 1 www.callasmusic.com
You will find lots of information about Maria at her official EMI website.
- 2 www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2007/sep/14/mariacallasthegreatest
An article from 2007 discussing whether Maria Callas is 'the greatest soprano'.

PRINTED RESOURCES

Maria Callas: The Woman Behind the Legend (Cooper Square Press, 2002) by Arianna Huffington
A biography of Callas's life.

Elvis Presley

MUSIC

Listen to and watch Elvis sing his most famous songs on video websites like YouTube. Pick songs from different stages in his career, to see how he changes. For example:

- 'Hound Dog' (1956)
- 'Jailhouse Rock' (1958)
- 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' (1961)
- 'Suspicious Minds' (1969)
- 'Always on My Mind' (1972).

There are thousands of recordings produced by different record companies.

FILM

King Creole (1958)

Elvis made 31 films during his career, all of which are available on DVD, but many people think *King Creole* is his best.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- 1 www.elvis.com
The official website of the 'King of Rock and Roll' provides lots of information about every aspect of his life.
- 2 www.allmusic.com/artist/elvis-presley-mn0000180228
This site lists all of Elvis's hits – singles, albums, awards and more. It also includes a thorough biography.

FURTHER RESEARCH (CONTINUED)

PRINTED RESOURCES

Elvis by the Presleys (Arrow, 2006)

A portrait of Elvis as husband and father by Priscilla and daughter Lisa Marie.

(Not suitable for younger readers.)

PLACES TO VISIT

Graceland, Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Elvis lived and died at Graceland, his mansion in Memphis. Since 1982, it has been a museum dedicated to Elvis. Every year, more than half a million visitors have their photos taken in front of the famous front gates, which are designed like a piece of sheet music, with green musical notes and a silhouette of Elvis.