

# Bela Bartok

(BAY-luh BAR-talk)

1881 – 1945



- Bartok's musical gifts were noticed early. He got his first piano lesson from his mother on his 5th birthday.
- He attended the Budapest Academy of Music in Hungary, where he studied piano and composition.
- After graduation he got a job teaching piano at the Academy. This made it possible for him to compose and study the music and folklore of his country and other nearby countries.
- His travels had taken him around Europe and to the US.
- The political troubles of World War II convinced Bartok and his wife to move to the United States permanently.
- While he was free from political pressures in the U.S., he faced financial problems and ill health.
- Bartok composed 10 choral works, 24 orchestral works, 83 piano solos, 6 pieces for piano and orchestra, 3 pieces for piano ensemble, 10 string quartets, 4 violin solos, and 45 chamber pieces.



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