

- 2 What do you know about the two musicians Bach and Chopin? Share your knowledge with your partner.

While You Listen

- 1 Listen and answer the questions about Bach and Chopin. Check (✓) the correct box.

Who...	Bach	Chopin
(1) was born in Germany?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) was Polish?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) was brought up by his older brother?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) gave his first concert at the age of eight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(5) never went back to his motherland?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(6) held three major jobs in his life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(7) wrote all kinds of music for organ and other keyboard instruments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(8) died at the age of 39?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2 Listen again and fill in the following table about the influence of family on Bach and Chopin.

	Family influence
Bach	(1) His father was a _____. (2) He came from a long line of _____ – over 300 years' worth of Bachs all worked as _____. (3) His older brother was a _____ organist.
Chopin	His mother introduced him to the _____.

After You Listen

Discuss the following questions in groups.

- 1 Does your family have an influence on you in learning art?
2 Who introduced you to music/painting/dancing...?

Module 2 Learn to Read

In this part, you are going to read two passages about the musicians Beethoven and Mozart respectively. After reading, you are going to practise your comprehension and learn to use some English words and phrases.

Warm-up

- Communicate with other students about the questions.
 - (1) What do you know about Beethoven?
 - (2) Do you listen to classical music? If so, which artists or pieces? If not, why?
 - (3) Great musicians are all geniuses. Do you agree or disagree? And why?
- Watch a video clip about Beethoven's life, and then tell each other what you've heard about the great composer.
- Consider the titles of the reading passages below. Write down three questions that you might expect to be answered by reading them.

Passage A

Life of Beethoven



Ludwig van Beethoven was born on December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany. His father, who was a singer, was his first teacher. **After a while, even though** he was still only a boy, Ludwig became a traveling performer, and soon he was supporting his family. In his early twenties Beethoven moved to Vienna, where he spent the rest of his life and died on March 26, 1827.

Beethoven was one of the first **composers to make a living** without being **employed** by the church or a member of the **nobility**. At first, he **was known as** a **brilliant** pianist, but when he was around 30 years old Beethoven began **going deaf**. Even though he could **no longer** hear well enough to play the piano, Beethoven composed some of his best music after he lost his hearing! When he could no longer hide his **handicap**, Beethoven used notebooks in which visitors could write what they wanted him to know, or equally ask what they wanted to know.

Here is an **extract** from his letter to his friend:

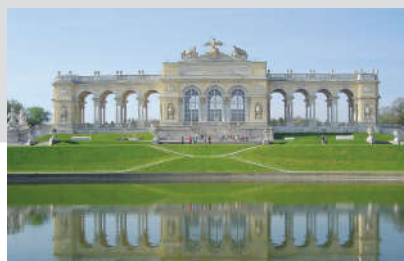
... For two years I have avoided almost all social **gatherings** because it is impossible for me to say to people "I am deaf". If I belonged to any other profession it would be

easier, but in my profession it is a **frightful** state.

Beethoven is considered one of the greatest musical **geniuses** who ever lived. He may **be most famous for** his nine **symphonies**, but he also wrote many other kinds of music: **chamber** and **choral** pieces, piano works, string **quartets**, and an **opera**.

• Notes •

1. Bonn 波恩。德国历史古城波恩，位于莱茵河中游两岸，北距科隆市21千米，扼莱茵河上游山地和下游平原的咽喉，地理位置重要，历史上为战略要地。
2. Vienna 维也纳。奥地利首都，同时也是奥地利的9个联邦州之一，是奥地利最大的城市和政治中心，位于多瑙河畔。



• New Words •

performer	/pə'fɔ:mə/	n.	表演者
composer	/kəm'pəuzə(r)/	n.	作曲家
employ	/ɪm'plɔɪ/	vt.	雇佣；使用
△nobility	/nəʊ'bɪlətɪ/	n.	贵族；高贵
brilliant	/'brɪliənt/	a.	优秀的；闪耀的
*handicap	/'hændɪkæp/	n.	残疾
*extract	/'ekstrækt/	n.	摘录；提取
△gathering	/'gæðərɪŋ/	n.	聚会
△frightful	/'fraɪtfl/	a.	可怕的
genius	/'dʒi:niəs/	n.	天才
*symphony	/'sɪmfəni/	n.	交响乐
chamber	/'tʃeɪmbə(r)/	n.	室内音乐
△choral	/'kɔ:rel/	n.	赞美诗；圣歌
△quartet	/'kwɔ:'tet/	n.	四重奏(曲)；四重唱(曲)
opera	/'ɒpərə/	n.	歌剧

注：单词前符号的标注说明见146页。

• Phrases •

after a while	不久，一会儿
even though	即使
make a living (by)	谋生；以……为生
be known as	被称之为
go deaf	耳朵变聋
no longer	不再
be famous for	以……而著名

I. Reading Comprehension

1 Global understanding

Answer the following questions.

- (1) What is the passage mainly about?
- (2) What is the author's attitude toward Beethoven?
- (3) How does the author show his respect for Beethoven?

2 Detailed understanding

Choose the best answers according to the passage.

- (1) Beethoven became a great success because _____.
 - A. he took great pains to learn music when he was very young
 - B. his father taught him music when he was a child
 - C. he became a traveling performer when he was still a boy
 - D. he grew up in Bonn, where people loved music
- (2) In Beethoven's time, most musicians made a living by performing for _____.
 - A. the public
 - B. the rich
 - C. the poor
 - D. the music fans
- (3) By "when he could no longer hide his handicap (Para. 2)", the author means _____.
 - A. Beethoven pretended to be deaf
 - B. Beethoven recovered his hearing
 - C. his deafness was well known to the public
 - D. his deafness couldn't be cured
- (4) How did Beethoven communicate with other people when he was deaf?
 - A. He used music.
 - B. He used body language.
 - C. He just wrote letters.
 - D. He used notebooks.
- (5) In the extract from his letter, we can know that _____.
 - A. Beethoven tried every means not to talk to other people
 - B. Beethoven felt it frightful to be deaf
 - C. Beethoven thought that a musician has to have good hearing
 - D. Beethoven wanted to change his profession

II. Language Practice

1 Write a sentence by using each of the following phrases on the underlined space.

- (1) after a while

- (2) even though

- (3) make a living

- (4) no longer

- (5) be famous for

- 2 Identify the words or expressions which mark or indicate the time periods. Then think of a similar word or expression which could replace each of them.

Words or expressions indicating the time periods	Similar words or expressions

- 3 Translate the following sentences, paying special attention to the coloured parts.

(1) employ

- A. The school cafeteria **employed** some students as part-time workers.
- B. She **employed** all her free time in listening to classical music.

(2) extract

- A. We read a few **extracts** from 19th century novels.
- B. Dyes of all colours can be **extracted** from plants.

(3) brilliant

- A. The **brilliant** sunshine made her blink.
- B. He was a **brilliant** student when he was at college.

(4) Beethoven used notebooks **in which visitors could write what they wanted him to know.**

(5) In his early twenties Beethoven moved to Vienna, **where he spent the rest of his life and died on March 26, 1827.**

Passage B

Musical Genius: Mozart



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in what is now Salzburg, Austria, and died in Vienna in 1791. One person described Mozart as “a **remarkably** small man, very thin and **pale**, and there is nothing special about him, giving no signs of his genius **except for** his large **intense** eyes.”

Mozart’s father was a **minor** composer and an experienced teacher. When Mozart’s sister was seven she began keyboard lessons with her father while the three-year-old Mozart watched with **fascination**. At age four Mozart himself began keyboard lessons playing without **fault** and with great **sensitivity**. By age five, Mozart was composing short