

World Music Day, on 21 June, is a global celebration of music. Read about how this special day started and how it's celebrated worldwide.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. the summer solstice
2. the globe
3. a survey
4. a composer
5. to launch something
6. an amateur
7. a genre
8. a live stream

Definition

- a. to start something new, usually important
- b. a person who writes music
- c. a particular style of music, art, books, etc.
- d. the world
- e. a person who does something for pleasure, not as a job
- f. an event that you can watch on the internet while it is happening
- g. a series of questions asked to a large number of people to learn about their opinions or behaviour
- h. the day of the year with the most hours of daylight

World Music Day

You may already know 21 June as the date of the summer solstice (or the winter solstice if you're in the southern hemisphere), but did you know that World Music Day also takes place annually on this day?

What is World Music Day?

This special day for music originated in France and was first celebrated in Paris in 1982. Since then, its popularity has spread all over the globe, and now World Music Day is celebrated on the same day in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries, including India, Italy, Australia, Peru, Canada, the UK and Japan. This festival has different names in different countries, for example 'La Fête de la Musique' in France, 'Make Music Day' in the UK, 'Festa della Musica' in Italy or 'Święto Muzyki' in Poland.

How did World Music Day start?

Back in 1982, a survey in France showed that five million people (approximately 9 per cent of the population at the time) played a musical instrument. The Minister for Art and Culture, Jack Lang, and Maurice Fleuret, a composer, decided to find a way to get as many people as

possible playing music for everyone to hear. They launched 'La Fête de la Musique'. There is a play on words in the name: La Fête de la Musique means 'Music festival' and 'Faites de la musique' (pronounced in the same way) means 'Make music!'

What happens on World Music Day?

On this day, people listen to and play music in their local area. You can listen to music in the street, outside bars and cafés, in parks and other public spaces. You don't have to pay for these concerts – the musicians play for free. World Music Day encourages all amateur and professional musicians, young and old, to perform and it aims to make all genres of music available to the public.

What sort of music can you hear on World Music Day?

As all music genres are encouraged on World Music Day, you could listen to a jazz band, a rock group, an orchestra, a choir, a samba band, a reggae sound system or a techno DJ ... whoever happens to be playing in your local area. It's a great way to discover types of music that you didn't know – for free!

What about online events for World Music Day?

If there are no World Music Day events where you live or if you are unable to attend face-to-face, there are lots of online events which take place on this special day. Live-streamed events such as the day-long Make Music Global Livestream make it possible to discover and enjoy live music from all over the world. Happy World Music Day!

Tasks

Task 1

Put the events in the order that they happened.

- _____ Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret decided to launch 'La Fête de la Musique' in France.
- _____ World Music Day spread to lots of other cities and countries around the world.
- _____ A survey showed that five million French people played a musical instrument.
- _____ People also started to celebrate World Music Day online.
- _____ Concerts took place in the streets of Paris on 21 June 1982.

Task 2

Choose the correct answer.

1. In the northern hemisphere, the _____ is on 21 June.
 - a. summer solstice
 - b. winter solstice
2. Now, World Music Day is celebrated _____.
 - a. globally
 - b. in Europe
 - c. in France
3. On World Music Day, _____ musicians perform.
 - a. amateur
 - b. professional
 - c. both amateur and professional
4. On World Music Day, concerts are _____.
 - a. cheap
 - b. expensive
 - c. free
5. World Music Day is for _____ music.
 - a. all genres of
 - b. classical
 - c. pop
6. The Make Music Day Global Livestream takes place _____.
 - a. on television
 - b. on the internet
 - c. on the radio

Discussion

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? What type of music do you like listening to?

Answers

Preparation task

1. h
2. d
3. g
4. b
5. a
6. e
7. c
8. f

Task 1

- 2 Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret decided to launch 'La Fête de la Musique' in France.
- 4 World Music Day spread to lots of other cities and countries around the world.
- 1 A survey showed that five million French people played a musical instrument.
- 5 People also started to celebrate World Music Day online.
- 3 Concerts took place in the streets of Paris on 21 June 1982.

Task 2

1. a
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. b