

# Brahms and His First Symphony



WALT DISNEY  
CONCERT HALL

**LA Phil**  
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL  
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **100**

---

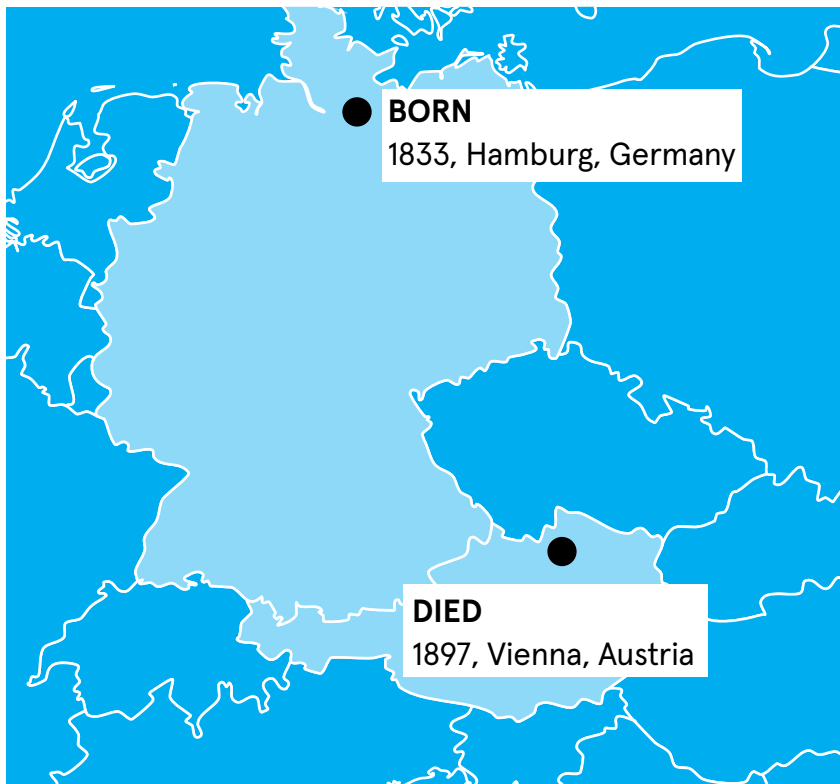
# About the Composer

---



## JOHANNES BRAHMS

As a boy, Brahms loved to play with toy soldiers, read scripture, and study music. He was a natural at the keyboard who started playing in public as a teenager in Hamburg's waterfront pubs. His music combines the serious and the playful, the intellectual and the earthy in a way that reminded many of his contemporaries of Beethoven. There is a mastery apparent in everything Brahms composed, from his charming piano miniatures to his Olympian symphonies.



## FURTHER LISTENING

*A German Requiem*  
(1865–1868)

Monteverdi Choir,  
John Eliot Gardiner (Philips)

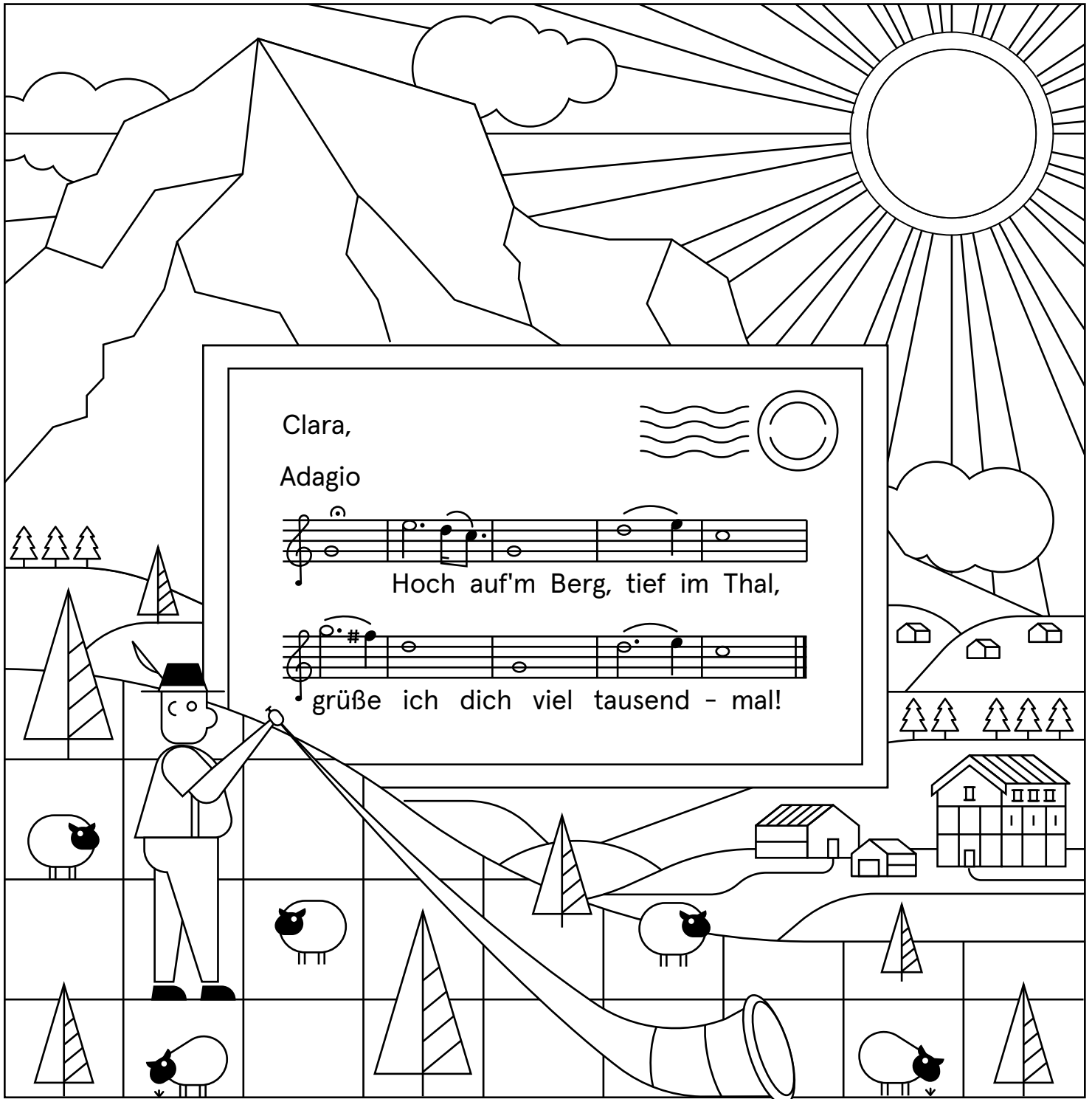
Clarinet Quintet, Op. 115 (1891)  
Paul Meyer; Renaud Capuçon,  
Gautier Capuçon, et al. (Warner  
Classics)

Violin Concerto, Op. 77 (1878)  
Hilary Hahn; Academy of  
St Martin in the Fields,  
Sir Neville Marriner

---

# Greetings from Switzerland

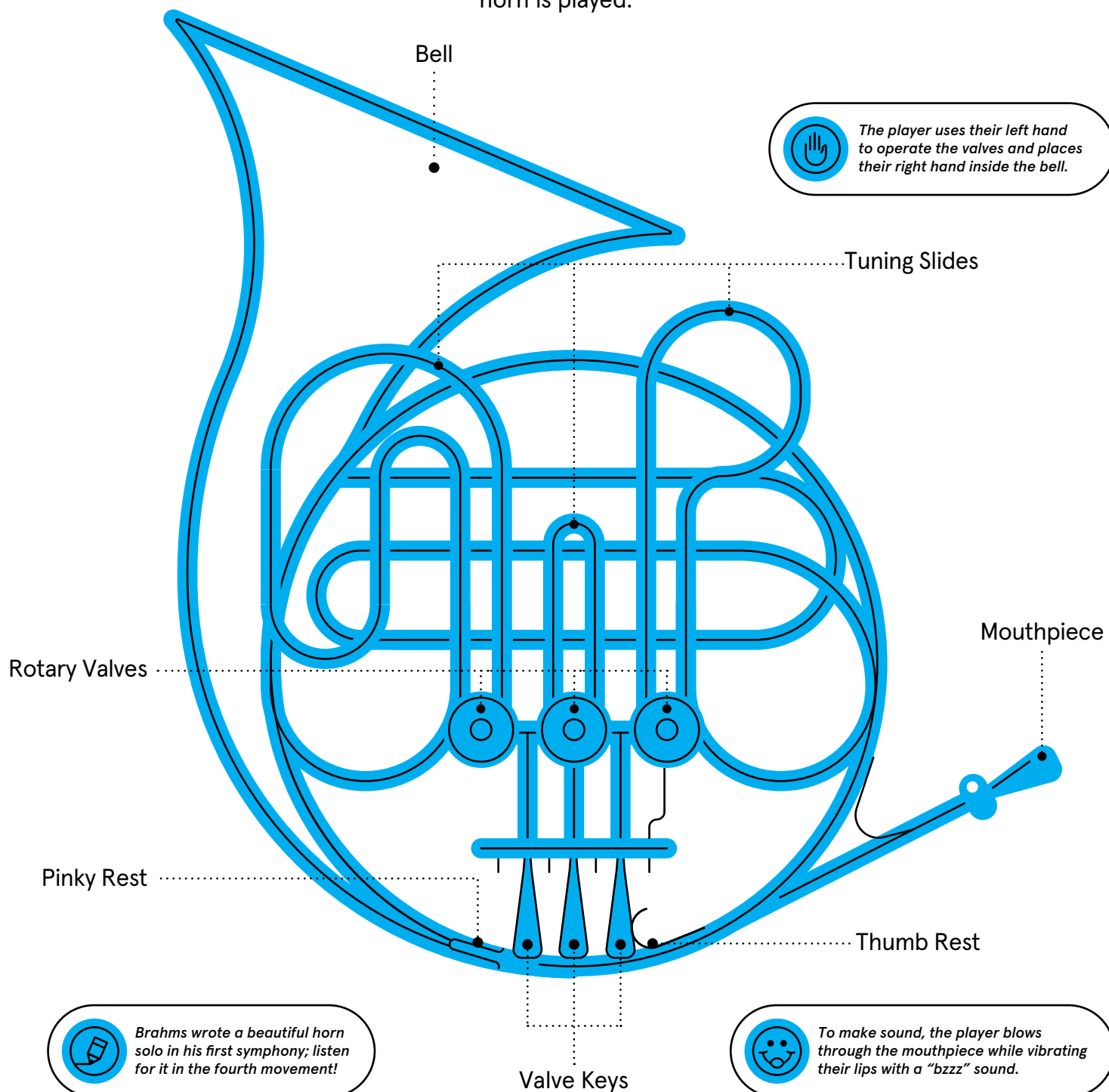
Brahms was inspired to write his first symphony in Switzerland when he heard an alphorn play a beautiful melody. He notated the music on a postcard for a friend and wrote "High on the mountain, deep in the valley, I greet you a thousand times!" Color in this Swiss mountain scene.



# Anatomy of a Horn

The horn, sometimes called a French horn, is a member of the orchestra's brass section. There are usually four horns in a section, and they sit near the back of the orchestra. Brahms loved the sound of the horn and wrote many prominent horn parts throughout his four symphonies.

Explore this diagram to learn more about how the horn is played.



# Fill in the Blanks

Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks in Max's book report on Brahms! Extra credit: did you learn anything during the concert that you could add to her book report?

Turn this page upside down to reveal the answers!

Maxine  
November 24, 2018

## Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Standing on the \_\_\_\_\_ of giants, Johannes Brahms created music with a debt to the past. But it was also his music, for his time. He did not compose a single \_\_\_\_\_ until he was forty-three years old. Brahms felt he could never live up to the famous composer \_\_\_\_\_, but in the process of writing his \_\_\_\_\_ symphony, he found his own voice.

## 3 Facts About Brahms

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, \_\_\_\_\_ in 1833.

Brahms \_\_\_\_\_ for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, and chorus.

His main instrument was the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Write Something Fun You Learned About Brahms

He did not like to wear \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

symphony

shoulders

Germany

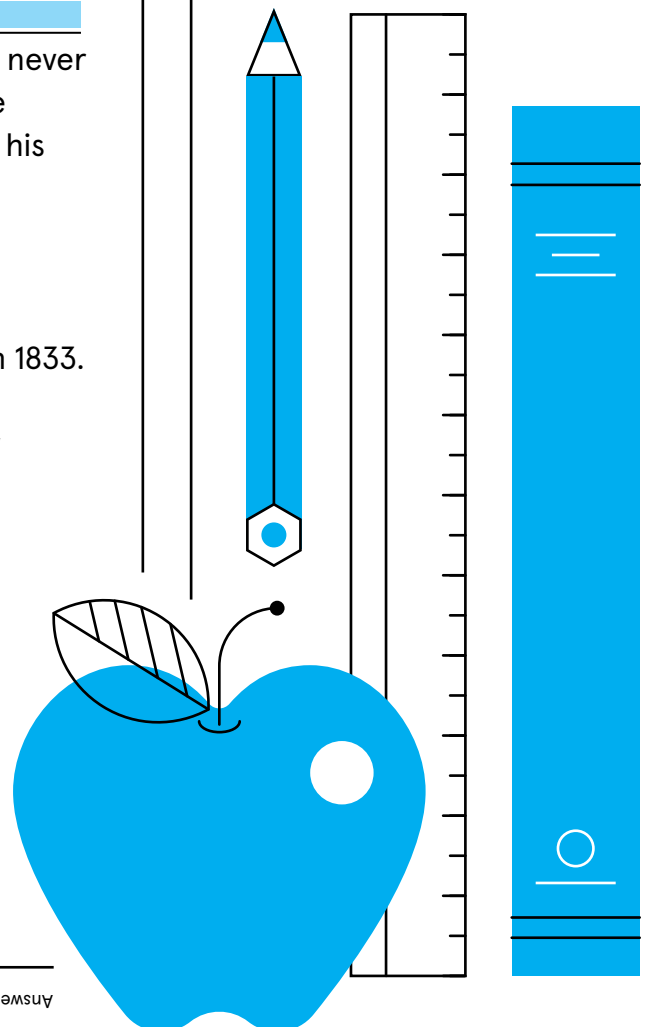
Beethoven

socks

first

composed

piano



Answers: shoulders, symphony, Beethoven, first, Germany, composed, socks

# Word Search

BRAHMS  
SYMPHONY  
HORN  
CLARINET  
VIOLIN  
VIOLA

CELLO  
BASS  
FLUTE  
TIMPANI  
ADAGIO  
MINOR

ALLEGRO  
MELODY  
COMPOSER  
ANDANTE  
MAX  
JOHANNES

GERMANY  
AUSTRIA  
SWITZERLAND  
TEMPO  
MUSIC  
PHILHARMONIC

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | S | A | L | L | E | G | R | O | V | I | O | L | I | N |
| M | I | N | O | R | C | I | S | U | M | H | H | O | R | N |
| M | L | Z | B | S | M | E | L | O | D | Y | S | A | A | L |
| Y | K | K | W | W | K | P | H | T | E | M | P | O | O | W |
| L | J | J | C | I | N | O | M | R | A | H | L | I | H | P |
| R | S | N | V | T | B | A | S | S | R | V | G | Q | N | F |
| J | E | J | U | Z | Q | E | S | Y | E | G | I | B | I | L |
| T | N | K | O | E | T | G | E | N | S | E | T | R | K | U |
| E | N | C | I | R | P | T | V | O | O | R | I | A | H | T |
| N | A | M | G | L | N | E | I | H | P | M | M | H | Y | E |
| I | H | A | A | A | I | T | O | P | M | A | P | M | C | E |
| R | O | X | D | N | P | X | L | M | O | N | A | S | M | A |
| A | J | N | A | D | T | K | A | Y | C | Y | N | Q | Q | Q |
| L | A | R | A | S | W | A | A | S | B | R | I | X | M | L |
| C | V | O | L | L | E | C | A | U | S | T | R | I | A | L |