

William Walton

Are the following statements true or false?

1. William Walton was born in Lancashire in 1902.
2. Walton was a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral at Cambridge.
3. Walton studied at Oxford University and left without a degree.

From 1920, Walton lived with the Sitwell family in London. The three Sitwells, all poets, introduced him to many major musical and literary figures of the time including Delius, Diaghilev and T.S. Elliot.

4. *Façade* of 1921 was a popular orchestral suite and ballet.
5. *Belshazzar's Feast* was a huge orchestral piece.
6. Walton became a very popular British composer and many hoped that he might recapture the brilliance in English music as it had been in Handel's time.

William Turner Walton was born in Oldham in _____. He represents a period in English music between Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. After a period as a chorister at Christ Church, _____, he later _____ to complete his graduate studies and was for a time dependent on the patronage and encouragement of the Sitwell family. He spent his later years on the island of Ischia.

Oratorio

Task: Write your own description of the term "Oratorio" in the space below.

Fill in the spaces:

Oratorio is an extended musical setting of a lengthy _____ - usually tracing a religious story. This is most often taken from the _____. It emerged around _____ (at about the same time as opera) and took its name from St Phillip Neri's Oratory (hall of prayer) in Rome where, in the early years of the _____ century, the first oratorios were performed.

A typical oratorio is scored for _____ voices, _____ and orchestra. The music is structured in separate musical items. For the soloists there are recitatives, arias and duets. The choruses may be reflective or they may vividly describe the more dramatic and exciting events in the story. The main function of the orchestra is to _____ the voices, though there may be an overture and perhaps one or two orchestral interludes.

The earlier oratorios were often _____ out, with costumes and scenery; and their music was often in a similar style to that of the operas of the period. In time however, oratorios ceased to be acted, and were given musical presentation only, in churches and concert halls rather than in theatres.