

Music for the masses 為大眾上演的音樂會

Vocabulary: music

Are you one of those people who find the world of Western classical music a bit **snobbish** and **inaccessible**? The Proms – or the BBC Promenade Concerts to give the world's largest music festival its full name - might help you **change your mind**.

For eight weeks every summer, the Royal Albert Hall in London opens its doors to **all-comers** and puts on a music show that is varied and **wide-ranging**. Some music lovers want to get as close as possible to the **conductor**. They are happy to stand up to listen to **orchestras** and **soloists** playing **symphonies**, **overtures** and **concertos** by the world's top **composers** – all for just £5.

The festival has been going since 1895 and has always tried to be informal and relatively cheap. The Prommers – the classical music **groupies** who like to stand – typify this relaxed ethos. Before performances, they shout out jokes and every time the lid of the piano is lifted they shout “**heave**” **in unison**.

One of the highlights of the Proms is the Last Night, which has a worldwide **screening**. Popular classics are played while the Prommers wave flags and sing along to the **catchy** tunes. The Last Night is so popular with audiences that a ballot has to be held - several months in advance - so that everyone who wants a ticket has a chance of getting one. But it has been criticised by some for being too British and **jingoistic**.

In recent years the Proms have grown so that they now include simultaneous screenings in other British cities, lunchtime concerts, talks, children's Proms, film and rock music, musicals, Indian classical music, and even tunes from the BBC series “Dr Who”. The expanding offer is proving popular with audiences old and new. Perhaps classical music isn't quite so **elitist**, after all.

Find the answers from the given text

1. What do some people think of classical music, according to the author?

2. Do the Proms offer a large selection of music?

3. How do the Prommers shout when the piano lid is lifted?

4. Why has the Last Night of the Proms received some negative comments?

4. Why does the author think the widening of the range of the Proms may improve the image of classical music?

Choose the correct answer

1. He's a bit _____. He only mixes with people who own smart cars and have lots of money.

jingoistic	snobbish	inaccessible	informal
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2. My boss is often criticised _____ being out of touch with the rest of her staff.

about	over	at	for
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3. This box is really heavy. It's going to take two of us to _____ it into the back of the car.

find	give	heave	open
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4. If I hear a _____ tune on the radio I often find it stays in my head for weeks.

catchy	wide-ranging	screening	relaxed
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5. The conference ran smoothly. All the delegates were provided with a _____ translation of the speeches.

informal	elitist	popular	simultaneous
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Vocabulary

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- snobbish adj. 勢利的，自傲的
→補充
- inaccessible adj. 難以接觸的，難懂的
→補充
- to change one's mind v. 改變某人對某事的看法
→補充

For eight weeks every summer, the Royal Albert Hall in London opens its doors to **all-comers** and puts on a music show that is varied and **wide-ranging**. Some music lovers want to get as close as possible to the **conductor**. They are happy to stand up to listen to **orchestras** and **soloists** playing **symphonies**, **overtures** and **concertos** by the world's top **composers** – all for just £5.

- all-comers n. 所有來者
→補充
- wide-ranging adj. 範圍廣的
→補充
- a conductor n. (樂隊) 指揮
→補充
- an orchestra n. 管弦樂隊
→補充
- a soloist n. 獨唱者，獨奏者
→補充
- a symphony n. 交響樂，交響曲
→補充
- an overture n. 序曲，序樂
→補充
- a concertos n. 協奏曲
→補充
- a composer n. 作曲者，作曲家
→補充

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- a groupie n. 樂團迷，狂熱追隨者
→補充
- to heave v. 舉起
→補充
- in unison adv. 齊聲，一致地
→補充
- a screening n. 播放
→補充
- catchy adj. 琅琅上口的
→補充
- jingoistic adj. 極端愛國主義的，大國主義的
→補充
- elitist adj. 精英化的，高級的
→補充