



## Read the selection.

Dvorak came to America to direct the American Conservatory of Music in New York. This school charged no tuition and accepted students purely on the basis of talent, regardless of gender or race. The aim of the conservatory was to make American musical life independent of European teachers and performers. Dvorak's job was to help American composers create an American identity.

Dvorak was open-minded and curious. He wanted to learn everything he could about the music of the American people, including Native American dances, the ballads of Stephen Foster and the songs of the African-Americans. One of Dvorak's African-American students at the conservatory often sang the spirituals and other African-American songs for his teacher. Dvorak recognized something special in this music. He wrote in a magazine article: "In the Negro melodies of America I discover all that is needed for a great and noble school of music."

The musical leaders of America who were European-trained did not like Dvorak's ideas. Dvorak did not change his mind. He inspired the African-American musicians at the conservatory. They did not become famous, but a few years later, something amazing happened. One of Dvorak's students became the mentor of Duke Ellington. Another taught both George Gershwin and Aaron Copland. These were three great American composers. In three different ways they helped define an "American" sound that is known around the world.

Dvorak was very wise. He saw that in the future, music coming from the African-American experience could become the most characteristic sound of America. This sound of America is in jazz, Broadway and concert music, rock and pop music, and more.

(Adapted from: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~humiowa/petera1.htm>)

## Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

- A. Was the American Conservatory of Music a school that cost a lot to attend?
- B. Who could attend the conservatory?
- C. On the basis of what were students accepted?
- D. What music did Dvorak study to learn about the music of the American people?
- E. What did one of Dvorak's African-American students sing to him?
- F. What did America's European-trained music leaders think of Dvorak's ideas?
- G. Did Dvorak's students become famous?
- H. What happened a generation later?
- I. Which three composers were taught by Dvorak's students?