

Tuberculosis in 200 composers

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Summary - In this article we are presenting an overview of 200 composers who contracted and suffered from tuberculosis and addictions. The data was collected from over 10 000 biographies and 1000 composers' pathographies. Besides causing them great suffering and prematurely ending their lives and creativities (sometimes in its prime), tuberculosis was among the most common causes of death in composers.

Key words: diseases, tuberculosis, composers, addictions

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Introduction

Tuberculosis as a febrile, subchronic, mostly pulmonary disease has taken many, mostly young lives among other infectious diseases in the last few centuries. From the 16th century onwards composers have namely lived relatively long in average, over 60 years. Because of its significance, we have decided to write this overview briefly describing the lives of most famous composers chronologically and by nationality, as well as listing so many other less influential [1,2].

Henry Purcell (1658-1695) was an English composer, organist and conductor of the court orchestra who received many recognitions for his opera "Didona and Eneja" while he was still young. He was gracefully and gently built, thin and frail. He overloaded himself and was very sociable and prone to parties and drinking. From fall 1665 he deteriorated and lost so much weight that he was bound to bed, sweating and coughing along with a fever. Apparently he got wet one night in London. It is believed that he died of tuberculosis which ended his creativity too soon [3].

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) was an Italian composer, violinist and organist. Based on the number of famous compositions which he created while he was still very young, he belongs along with Bellini among

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the greatest Italian composers that Italy ever had and unfortunately prematurely lost. He lived freely and intensely throughout Italy. He was of a fragile structure prone to illnesses, and because of respiratory problems in the form of pulmonary tuberculosis took refuge in a monastery before his death. After a long disease, he died due to tuberculosis at the age on only 26 [3].

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) was a famous Italian composer and cellist who died probably either from tuberculosis or pulmonary cancer. The acute state, pulmonary symptoms and their character all point to tuberculosis, along with the squalor in which he lived.

Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840) was an Italian composer, cellist and all time virtuoso. He probably had a genetic disorder (Marfan syndrome) because of which he had very long hands and fingers, significant joint flexibility and thanks to that, along with his great talent he was able to perform special moves and virtuosity on the violin. He was thrifty and stingy even to himself. He never married because of his eccentric temper and many temporary affairs. He might have contracted encephalitis when he was young which might explain the distinctive, depressive and psychopathic personality he developed. He contracted tuberculosis of throat and lungs and also gonorrhea and syphilis later on. Syphilis was treated at the time with mercury which was usually toxic. His condition deteriorated, he lost his voice and was barely able to speak with a whisper, before his death he couldn't even swallow, he was carried around because his hands were shaking and legs began to swell. He took opium because of the pain which led to addictive signs, and in the end died from all of the above mentioned consequences exhausted and alone at the age of 58 [4].

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) was a German composer, conductor and great instrumental virtuoso. He was prone to illnesses since he was 25 years old when he developed heavy diarrhea, pulmonary problems and chest pains. He felt severely sick and was often bound to his bed. Onwards from the age of 30 he started to deteriorate and was becoming more exhausted and ill. He breathed with more and more difficulty, his voice was hoarse, had night sweats, bloody sputum, edematous legs, and was choking from coughing. He died in agony at the age of only 29 in London most likely due to tuberculosis [3].

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) was a Polish composer and pianist of a very delicate health and stature. He fell seriously ill for the first time at the age of 16; his neck glands started to impale and he developed a severe headache. He managed to recover, but then his sister contracted tuberculosis and died shortly after. She probably infected him, but he didn't develop any symptoms or signs then because of his good immunity. His compositions and gigs made him famous and brought many travels, a messy life and relationships with various women. He spent the winter of 1839 in Mallorca where because of unfavorable accommodation his health deteriorated severely. After severe cough and fever, exudative cavernous tuberculosis with severe hemoptysis erupted, but he was able to recover thanks to the help and care of George Sandore. A wasteful way of life and bad economic situation after his father's death forced him to give concerts because of which his condition deteriorated further more. He complained about respiratory symptoms, hemoptysis, headaches, bronchitis, relapsing diarrhea and weight loss, and the tuberculosis has spread to his throat and intestines. He

died in the form of heart-pulmonary failure in the state of total cachexia. Lately some less probable diseases are also mentioned: emphysema with bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis even lack of alpha-trypsin [3,6].

Vatroslav Lisinski (1819-1854) was the founder of recent Croatian music and the first Croatian composer. In early childhood he fell and dislocated his left hip after which he became lame. His leg started to wither and from then on he had to move with crutches and cane. His was probably the case of hip tuberculosis, but as tuberculosis was considered shameful at the time the blame was placed on a single injury. In his letters he used to describe the worsening of his disease: he developed fevers which were gone only after the manure would come out of his hip. His friends and family financed his study in Prague, but the fever and jaundice (which can be related to poverty and a messy lifestyle) forced him several times to undergo recovery in Zagreb. Later on he got ill again with fever which developed into so called water disease at the time (exudative tuberculosis pleurisy) due to which he died [5].

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) was a Norwegian composer, pianist and conductor. In 1859 he contracted a serious respiratory disease with fever and severe pain. This was the case of left lung and pleura (pulmonary collapse) tuberculosis infection, and there is evidence that he suffered from asthma even before tuberculosis. He was a passionate smoker which destroyed his lungs, over time he rarely performed and his health deteriorated. Near his life's end he developed the signs of cardiac failure and pulmonary heart. His severe cardiac condition was worsened by the extent use of too strong sedatives. He died at the age of 65 [6,8].

Bela Bartok (1881-1945) was a Hungarian composer, pianist and conductor. As a child he contracted a recurrent eczema and a chronic bronchial infection, and later on a tip of the lungs catarrh and pneumonia probably of a tuberculosis origin. He died due to a long and exhausting disease- myeloid leukemia.

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1937) Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky was one of the greatest names of the twentieth century Russian composers. He had a rough childhood when he got over pleurisy. In 1939 tuberculosis has taken the lives of his daughter, wife and mother, and he also got infected but managed to survive. After that he had two strokes and another burst of tuberculosis which he treated with tuberculostatics for over half a year. As he was a very stubborn and grumpy person, he smoked until his death. After the period of little improvements and deteriorations, he died at the age of 89 due to a heart failure which ended his creativity [7].

Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937) was the greatest Polish composer after Chopin. He contracted tuberculosis in 1929 with severe coughing, fever and malaise. He spent a lot of time on recovery, but his condition deteriorated even further and he died exhausted from a severe disease in Switzerland. Even without tuberculostatic medical treatment, but with the help of the treatment in sanatorium and mountains, he was still active until he was 55 [6].

Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich (1906-1975) was a Russian composer, pianist and conductor, and is considered to be one of the greatest symphonists of the twentieth century. In 1923 he was diagnosed with tuberculosis of bronchi and lymph nodes, he was operated and recovered on the half island of Crimea because of its mild climate. His ex-

cessive smoking caused common bronchial-pulmonary symptoms and he also suffered from coronary and neurotic problems [7].

We are mentioning other composers who probably suffered or died from tuberculosis according to their nationality and chronology:

Name	Years of birth and of death	State
Johannes Lupi	(C.1506 – 1539)	FRA
Pavao Skalić	(1534 – 1575)	CRO
Jacob Gallus	(1550 – 1591)	SLO
Luca Marenzio	(1553 – 1599)	ITA
Hans Hassler	(1564 – 1612)	DEU
Nikola Gaudencije	(1564. – 1601)	CRO
Johannes Schultz	(1582 – 1653)	DEU
Heinrich Schutz	(1585 – 1672)	DEU
Johann Hermann Schein	(1586 – 1630)	DEU
Atanazije Grgičević	(1590 – 1640)	CRO
Nathanael Schnittelbach	(1633 – 1667)	DEU
Domenico Gabrielli	(1651 – 1690)	ITA
Janez Jakob Labassar	(1656 – 1703)	SLO
Jacob Schutz	(1661 – 1700)	DEU
Alessandro Marcello	(1669 – 1747)	ITA
Aureus Dix	(1669 – 1719)	CZE
Nicola Sabini (Sabino)	(1676 – 1705)	ITA
Georg Kauffmann	(1679 – 1735)	DEU
Francisco Jose Coutinho	(1680 – 1724)	URU
Johann Heinichen	(1683 – 1729)	DEU
Domenico Zipoli	(1688 – 1726)	ITA
Ladislav Menčetić	(1700 – 1748)	CRO
Jurij Kuralt	(1700 – 1733)	SLO
Domenico Alberti	(1710 – 1740)	ITA
Jean – Jacques Rousseau	(1712 – 1778)	FRA
Andrea Adolfati	(1721 – 1760)	ITA
Domenico Auletta	(1723 – 1753)	ITA
Johann Goldberg	(1727 – 1756)	DEU

Giuseppe Sarti	(1729 – 1802)	ITA
Jean Louis Laurette	(1731 – 1792)	FRA
František Xaver Brixi	(1732 – 1771)	CZE
Gian Francesco de Majo	(1732 – 1770)	ITA
Karl Ordonez	(1734 – 1786)	AUT
Michael Haydn	(1737 – 1806)	AUT
Andre Ernest Modeste Gretry	(1741 – 1813)	FRA
Antonio Felici	(1742 – 1772)	ITA
Karel Filip Stamitz	(1745 – 1801)	DEU
Ivan Mane Jarnović	(1745 – 1804)	CRO
Etienne Joseph Floquet	(1748 – 1785)	FRA
Tomas de Iriarte	(1750 – 1791)	ESP
Franz Schmidt	(1751 – 1812)	AUT
Ivan Werner	(1752 – 1786)	CRO
Johann Schroter	(1753 – 1788)	DEU
Anton Stadler	(1753 – 1812)	AUT
Luigi Braccini	(1755 – 1791)	ITA
Anton Tomaž Linhart	(1756 – 1795)	SLO
Joseph Martin Kraus	(1756 – 1792)	DEU
Karel Kopriva	(1756 – 1785)	CZE
Hugh Reinagle	(1759 – 1785)	GBR
Tomaso Resti	(1760 – 1830)	ITA
Etienne Nicolas Mehul	(1763 – 1817)	FRA
Friedrich Heinrich Himmel	(1765 – 1814)	DEU
Stepan Anikijevich Degtjarev	(1766 – 1813)	RUS
Lucile – Angeliqne Gretry	(1772 – 1790)	FRA
Nicolas Isouard	(1773 – 1818)	MAL
Joseph Johann Baptist Woelfl	(1773 – 1812)	DEU
Isolard Nicolas	(1775 – 1818)	FRA
Francois – Adrien Boieldieu	(1775 – 1834)	FRA
Sophie Gail	(1775 – 1819)	FRA
Janos Fusz	(1777 – 1819)	HUN
Joachim Nicolas Eggert	(1779 – 1813)	SWE
Franz Sokol	(1779 – 1822)	SVK
Francesco Morlacchi	(1784 – 1841)	ITA
George Pinto	(1785 – 1806)	GBR
Friedrich Kuhlau	(1786 – 1832)	DEU

Frederic Ernest Fesca	(1789 – 1826)	DEU
Ferdinand Herold	(1791 – 1833)	FRA
Mikhail Vysotsky	(1791 – 1837)	RUS
Jose Gomis	(1791 – 1836)	ESP
Fromental Halevy	(1799 – 1862)	FRA
Vincenzo Bellini	(1801 – 1835)	ITA
Jozef Slavik	(1806 – 1833)	CZE
Pavao Štoos	(1806 – 1862)	CRO
Juan Crisostomo Arriaga	(1806 – 1826)	ESP
Antun Kirschofer	(1807 – 1849)	AUT
Egerton Webbe	(1810 – 1840)	GBR
Stanko Vraz	(1810 – 1851)	CRO
George Aspull	(1813 – 1832)	GBR
William Fry	(1813 – 1864)	USA
Alexandre Artot	(1815 – 1845)	BEL
Alojzije Ipavac	(1815 – 1849)	CRO
Vincenc Cuyas y Bores	(1816 – 1839)	ESP
Louis Aime Maillart	(1817 – 1871)	FRA
Louis Lefebure – Wely	(1817 – 1869)	FRA
Isaac Woodbury	(1819 – 1858)	USA
Wilhelm Baumgartner	(1820 – 1867)	CHE
Mijo Hajko	(1820 – 1848)	CRO
Cesar Franck	(1822 – 1890)	BEL
Theodor Uhlig	(1822 – 1853)	DEU
Wilhelm Rust	(1822 – 1892)	DEU
Ignacy Marcei Komorowski	(1824 – 1857)	POL
Edward Francis Fitzwilliam	(1824 – 1857)	ENG
Vatroslav Vernak	(1824 – 1863)	CRO
Josip Tomaževic	(1824 – 1851)	CRO
Franjo Pokorni	(1825 – 1859)	CRO
Alexander Stadtfeld	(1826 – 1853)	BEL
Carl Filtsch	(1830 – 1845)	RUM
Kamilo Mašek	(1831 – 1859)	SLO
Ferdinand Laub	(1832 – 1875)	DNK
Julius Reubke	(1832 – 1858)	DEU
Gustav Stolpe	(1833 – 1902)	POL
Francis Edward Bache	(1833 – 1858)	GBR

Amilcare Ponchielli	(1834 – 1886)	ITA
Tekla Badarzewska	(1834 – 1861)	POL
Adolf Jensen	(1837 – 1879)	DEU
Hermann Gustav Goetz	(1840 – 1876)	DEU
Gjuro Eisenhuth	(1841 – 1891)	CRO
Jules Émile Frédéric Massenet	(1842 – 1912)	FRA
Anton Hajdrih	(1842 – 1878)	SLO
Rikard Nordraak	(1842 – 1866)	NOR
Calixa Lavallee	(1842 – 1891)	FRA
Sidney Lanier	(1842 – 1881)	USA
Johan Peter Selmer	(1844 – 1910)	NOR
Josip Eisenhuth	(1844 – 1886)	CRO
Agnes Tyrrell	(1846 – 1883)	CZE
Frederick Smidt	(1847 – 1939)	USA
Benjamin Godard	(1849 – 1895)	FRA
Robert Burgarella	(1849 – 1887)	USA
Josip Kocijančić	(1849 – 1878)	CRO
Joseph Skelly	(1850 – 1895)	USA
Antoni Stople	(1851 – 1872)	POL
Alfredo Catalani	(1854 – 1893)	ITA
James Bland	(1854 – 1911)	USA
Juliusz Zarembski	(1854 – 1885)	POL
Anatoly Konstantinovich Ljadov	(1855 – 1914)	RUS
Janko Lebana	(1855 – 1932)	SLO
Hans Rott	(1858 – 1884)	AUT
Vjenceslav Novak	(1859 – 1905)	CRO
Ludovig Houdovernik	(1859 – 1901)	SLO
Alojz Lavrenčić	(1860 – 1890)	CRO
Franjo Krežma	(1860 – 1881)	CRO
Anton Stepanovich Arensky	(1861 – 1906)	RUS
Horatio Parker	(1863 – 1919)	USA
Hrabroslav Volarić	(1863 – 1895)	CRO
Vilko Novak	(1865 – 1918)	CRO
Pavao Matijević	(1866 – 1901)	CRO
Vasily Sergejevich Kalinikov	(1866 – 1901)	RUS
August Renec	(1867 – 1925)	CRO
Juventino Rosas	(1868 – 1894)	MEX

Karlo Pijenta	(1869 – 1902)	SLO
Vjekoslav Rosenberg Ružić	(1870 – 195)????	CRO
Sigurd Lie	(1871 – 1904)	NOR
Franz Schmidt	(1874 – 1939)	AUT
Vinko Kreka	(1874 – 1914)	SLO
Mikalojus Konstantinas Chiurlionis	(1875 – 1911)	RUS
Anton Svetek	(1875 – 1919)	SLO
Viktor Adamić	(1876 – 1924)	CRO
Frederick Ayres	(1876 – 1926)	USA
Charles Hunter	(1876 – 1906)	USA
Karel Kukla	(1876 – 1913)	CRO
Ernst Mielck	(1877 – 1899)	FIN
Jean Hure	(1877 – 1930)	FRA
Gabriel Dupont	(1878 – 1914)	FRA
Franjo Štefanović	(1878 – 1924)	CRO
Rentaro Taki	(1879 – 1903)	JAP
Rudolf Karel	(1880 – 1945)	CZE
Ludomir Michal Rogowski	(1881 – 1854)	POL
Scott Hayden	(1882 – 1915)	USA
Milutin Polić	(1883 – 1908)	CRO
Dragan Dujmušić	(1884 – 1914)	CRO
Muhammad Magomaev	(1885 – 1937)	AZE
Dora Pejačević - Lumbe	(1885 – 1923)	CRO
Vladimir Josip Hafner	(1886 – 1907)	CRO
Katherine Parker	(1886 – 1971)	USA
Jose Usandizaga	(1887 – 1915)	ESP
Viktor Novak	(1889 – 1977)	CRO
Ivor Bertie Gurney	(1890 – 1937)	GBR
Cesar Cortinas	(1890 – 1918)	URU
Charles Orr	(1893 – 1976)	USA
Vlaho Paljetak	(1893 – 1944)	CRO
Lili Boulanger	(1893 – 1918)	USA
Erwin Schulhoff	(1894 – 1942)	CZE
Edmund Thornton Jenkins	(1894 – 1926)	USA
Tadija Leto	(1895 – 1926)	CRO
Vincent Youmans	(1898 – 1946)	USA
Willy Burkhard	(1900 – 1955)	CHE

Gunter Raphael	(1903 – 1960)	DEU
Jean Cartan	(1906 – 1932)	FRA
George Vaich	(1907 – 1951)	USA
Hans Henkemans	(1913 – 1995)	NDL
Vitezslava Kapralova	(1915 – 1940)	CZE
Božidar Mohaček	(1916 – 1944)	CRO
Branko Milin	(1918 – 1940)	CRO
Milan Harashta	(1919 – 1946)	CZE
Tadeusz Baird	(1928 – 1981)	POL
Mihovil Brajević	(1928 – 1991)	CRO

Conclusion

The significance of tuberculosis lies not only in the vast number of composers it has affected, but also in its role in prematurely ending their lives, and creativities. We can only imagine how many more great compositions these composers could have given the world, if only this disease has not abruptly ended their careers. It is also a shame many of them lived and died before the era of antituberculotics with no or minimum chances of treatment for this cruel disease. Tuberculosis is a perfect example of a today very

preventable and treatable disease, as well as addiction is. As such it could have been prevented from taking many lives in the past, and treated in those affected so many could have been saved, especially these composers who have left us far too prematurely [9-11].

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Conflict of interest

None to declare

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Tuberkuloza u 200 skladatelja

Sažetak -U ovom članku iznosimo pregled dvjestotinjak skladatelja koji su bili zaraženi i patili od tuberkuloze, uz čestu ovisnost. Podatke smo prikupili iz preko 10 000 biografija i 1000 patografija. Osim što im je prouzročila mnogo patnje i prerano uzrokovala smrt i prekid njihova stvaralaštva (ponekad u samom vrhuncu), tuberkuloza je bila jedan od najčešćih uzroka smrti u skladatelja uopće.

Ključne riječi: bolesti, tuberkuloza, skladatelji, ovisnosti