

## That's Entertainment:

It has lately occurred to me that geniuses in any endeavor are pretty much the same. I mean they exhibit a lot of the same qualities regardless of what they do, qualities that stand out in any pursuit. Attributes such as creativity and passion apply. Personal struggle or a keen sense for show biz can play a part as well. It really doesn't matter whether the challenge is batting .300 or composing a symphony.

I like to think about music. I like to think about baseball. Today I am thinking about both music and baseball. I have been compiling a list of my favorite composers and with them a comparative list of marvelous baseball players, all of them Hall of Famers, now, or soon to be. Each of them has something in common with the other. It might be their approach to their given professions as in, aggressive or easygoing. It might be their prodigious physical skills. And it might be that the player or the musician was simply better than his/her contemporaries. Anyway, I present this list and invite your comments.

J.S.Bach	Babe Ruth/ RF/ Yankees
Ludwig Von Beethoven	Ty Cobb/ OF/ Tigers
Irving Berlin	Cal Ripken Jr./ SS/ Orioles
Leonard Bernstein	Robin Yount/ SS/ Brewers
Johannes Brahms	Mike Schmitt/ 3B/ Phillies
Anton Bruckner	Harmon Killebrew/ 3B/ Twins
Frederic Chopin	Paul Blair/ CF/ Orioles
Aaron Copeland	Yogi Berra/ C/ Yankees
Claude Debussy	Juan Marichal/ P/ Giants
Antonin Dvorak	Carl Yastrzemski/ OF Red Sox
Bob Dylan	Satchel Paige/ P/ Negro Leagues
Duke Ellington	Sandy Koufax/ P/ Dodgers
George Gershwin	Roberto Clemente/ RF/ Pirates
George F. Handel	Hank Aaron/ OF/ Braves
Franz Joseph Haydn	Willie Stargell/ 1B/ Pirates
Elton John	Dizzy Dean/ P/ Cardinals
Sammy Cahn	Pee Wee Reese/ SS/ Dodgers

Jerome Kern	Greg Maddux/ P/ Cubs
Paul McCartney	Ryne Sandberg/ 2B/ Cubs
Felix Mendelssohn	Curt Flood/ OF/ Cardinals
Joni Mitchell	Rickey Henderson/ OF/ Everywhere
Wolfgang A. Mozart	Joe DiMaggio/ CF/ Yankees
Cole Porter	Christy Mathewson/ P/ Giants
Serge Prokofiev	Brooks Robinson/ 3B/ Orioles
Dave Brubeck	Kirby Puckett/ CF/ Twins
Giacomo Puccini	Derek Jeter/ SS/ Yankees
Sergei Rachmaninoff	Grover Cleveland Alexander/ P/ Phillies
Richard Rogers	Warren Spahn/ P/ Braves
Giacino Rossini	Ozzie Smith/ SS/ Cardinals
Franz Schubert	Ken Griffey Jr./ OF/ Reds
Robert Schumann	Steve Carlton/ P/ Phillies
Paul Simon	Whitey Ford/ P/ Yankees
Steven Sondheim	Lou Gehrig/ 1B/ Yankees
Peter I. Tchaikovsky	Ted Williams/ LF/ Red Sox
Giuseppe Verdi	Willie Mays/ CF/ Giants
Richard Wagner	Bob Gibson/ P/ Cardinals
Andrew Lloyd Weber	Al Kaline/ RF/ Tigers
Kurt Weill	Jackie Robinson/ 2B/ Dodgers
Hank Williams	Mickey Mantle/ CF/ Yankees

If any of you are old enough, or young but savvy enough, to know that both Duke Ellington and Sandy Koufax were stylish and towering performers in their respective fields, then you will know what I'm talking about. Both Bob Gibson and Herr Wagner had a mean streak that was intimidating. If Wagner were a pitcher he would have thrown at your head too, just like Bob did. Lloyd Weber had his first hit musical before his beard came in and Al Kaline never spent a day in the minors. True prodigies. As for Hank and Mickey, they were great performers, good ole boys and a bit too fond of the sauce.

I realize that more than a few of these names on my personal Who's Who list might be unknown to a lot of folks. That's too bad because each of them is a fun study in his own right. Allow me to recommend Ken Burns' marvelous series called "Baseball" if you're in the mood for absolutely painless education.

I also invite you to run your finger down the left hand side of the list, with your eyes closed, and stop without peeking. Whichever name your finger comes to rest on, that's someone whose music you should hear. Jump online or get over to the library and listen to anything at all by one of these wonders. You can't go wrong.

A Sutherland high 'C' or Santana's change-up, it doesn't matter whether you're hearing perfect pitch or watching the perfect pitch. That's entertainment.