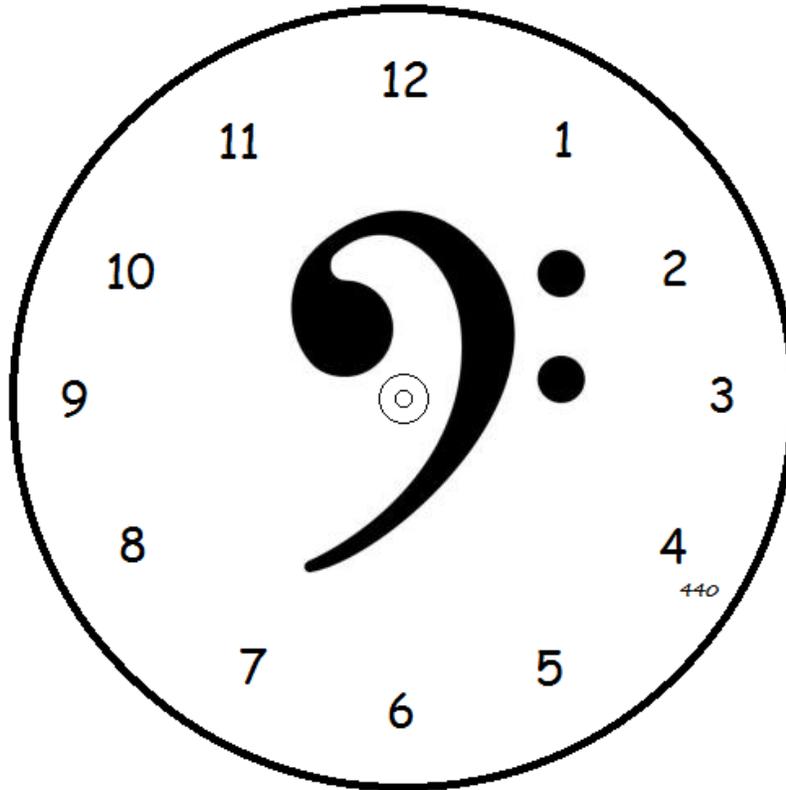


Circle of Fifths

The noted composer Mr. Stravinsky has just died, trapped as his house burned around him! In his will, he asked that all of his unpublished work be made public. Much of it was protected by his office safe, and all the safe's contents demonstrate the true genius of Mr. Stravinsky. But then there's this piece, found in the ashes around his work table. Only a small portion survived, but it doesn't sound like any of his other work. We think it might be a cipher (with cipher text and key) or something. Lying next to it was a pocket watch with a "440" carefully engraved next to the 4; we provided it here in case it might be useful.



Circle of Fifths

Stravinsky

Piano

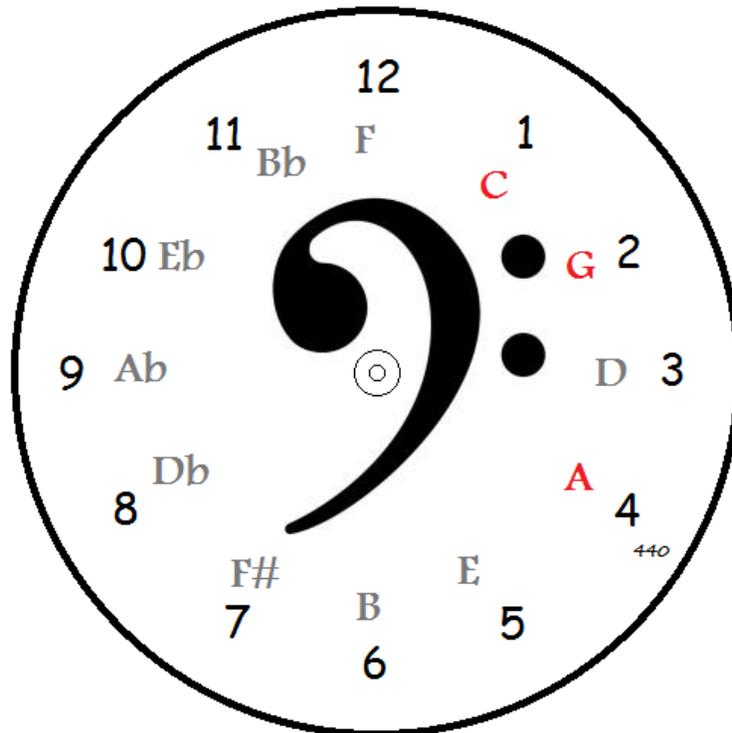
(jump down for solution)

(jump down for solution)

Circle of Fifths Solution

The word is ORIGIN.

The watch represents the circle of fifths (look it up on Wikipedia if you don't know what it means). The "440" tells you where A goes; 440 being the frequency of the A above middle C. Relevantly for this puzzle, you get F at the 12 o'clock position, C at 1 o'clock, G at 2 o'clock.



The notes in the melody (E A B A B D) correspond to their positions within the C major scale, which is the key signature of the piece: E=3, A=6, B=7, D=2. (C would be 1 if it appeared.)

The notes in the harmony are the major chords F, G, C, G, and F (all major). These should be mapped to the Circle of Fifths, giving F=12, G=2, etc. based on the positions of the chords on the clock.

Add up the value of the harmony + the value of the melody (i.e. for the first note E+F = 3+12 = 15) to get 15, 18, 9, 7, 9, 14 (because the first chord applies to the first two melody notes because it's a half-note). These numbers map into the alphabet to give ORIGIN.

Note: I didn't write this puzzle, I just attempted to make it reasonably easy. A few too many assumptions were made by my co-author which made this puzzle very unintuitive for players, but hints were given during the Puzzle Hunt to ensure solving was possible.