1. Stanisław Moniuszko was a famous Polish composer, conductor and teacher.

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2. He was born in Ubiel near Minsk (in present-day Belarus) on 5 May 1819 to a szlachta nobility of Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth.

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3. Moniuszko was talented in music as a child  
and began private piano lessons in 1827.

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4. In 1837 Moniuszko began to study composition  
in Berlin.

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5. After three years in Berlin, he returned to Poland  
in 1840 to marry Aleksandra Müller. He was an organist in Vilnius and also worked as a private piano tutor.

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6. Around 1840, he began to compose, writing his first operas and other stage works.

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7. He often had not enough money. The Moniuszkos had ten children and together with the nurses  
and servants there were 18 people at their table every day.

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8. He wrote the famous Polish Romantic opera Halka. The work is one of the best Polish national operas. It is made up of musical forms from the Polish folk tradition - polonaises, mazurkas and dumkas.

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9. Moniuszko's next most important work is Straszny Dwór (The Haunted Manor).

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10. On 1 August 1858 he was appointed main conductor of the Polish Opera in the Grand Theatre  
in Warsaw.

11. Stanisław Moniuszko died on 4 June 1872  
in Warsaw of a heart attack and was buried in Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw. His burial ceremony was  
a national event.

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12. His music became well-known in Poland  
and generally accepted as "Slavonic" music.

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13. There are many statues, names of parks, music competitions, and institutions by the name of Stanisław Moniuszko. He has also been on stamps, bank notes and other documents in Poland.

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14. He wrote many popular art songs and operas,  
with patriotic folk themes.

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15. He is known as "the father of Polish national opera" - the true creator of Polish national opera.