

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Periods of Western Classical Music



What?	When?	Who?	Why?
<p><b>Medieval</b></p> <p>The longest period in the history of Western Classical Music. Life in this era was simple, with religion being the focus of most people's lives. Some travelling musicians, 'troubadours', played for pleasure.</p>	<p><b>476 AD - 1400 AD</b></p>	<p>Hildegard von Bingen Leonin Perotin</p>	<p>Music during this very long era was 'sacred' meaning it was performed and composed for religious reasons. Most music was not usually written down - Music notation was only used from 900AD and only included pitch, not rhythm or harmony.</p>
<p><b>Renaissance</b></p> <p>Renaissance means 'Rebirth'. Science and the Arts became more important during this time. People travelled further - America was discovered. Michelangelo lived in this era, as did Shakespeare.</p>	<p><b>1400 - 1600</b></p>	<p>William Byrd (Eng) Thomas Tallis (Eng) John Dowland (Eng) John Taverner (Eng) Monteverdi</p>	<p>In this era, people performed music for pleasure, not just as a form of praise. Performing to an audience became popular. The printing press was invented so written arrangements of music could be produced more easily.</p>
<p><b>Baroque</b></p> <p>The Baroque style was 'highly decorated' and spanned Music, Art, Architecture and Fashion. Patrons (such as kings and queens), would employ musicians and commission the writing of write new works.</p>	<p><b>1600 - 1750</b></p>	<p>J.S Bach Purcell (Eng) Handel Vivaldi Telemann</p>	<p>Opera first appeared in this era, with larger audiences wanting to attend musical performances. The harpsichord and string instruments were popular and music included lots of 'ornaments' - decoration on the melody.</p>
<p><b>Classical</b></p> <p>The Classical era was all about balance and simplicity. People enjoyed simple, elegant melodies and uncomplicated harmony. Technological advances, such as the invention of the piano, happened during this era.</p>	<p><b>1750 - 1820</b></p>	<p>Mozart Schubert Haydn Beethoven Clementi</p>	<p>Classical music had a clear, controlled structure with no extreme changes in dynamics or tempo. Music was balanced, usually in ABA structures. The orchestra was growing in size and the symphony was popular, a large musical work with four movements.</p>
<p><b>Romantic</b></p> <p>The change in trend to 'Romantic' styling affected all Arts. Passion and imagination were seen as more important than logic and reason. It was a free age, where people could write in any way they wished.</p>	<p><b>1820 - 1900</b></p>	<p>Chopin Wagner Debussy Shostakovich Tchaikovsky</p>	<p>Composers used their music to write and tell stories in this era. Musicians aimed to become 'virtuoso' performers, meaning they excelled in playing more difficult pieces and often showed off. New instruments such as the saxophone and tuba, were invented.</p>
<p><b>Modern</b></p> <p>This era has composers breaking free of previous traditions. There are a large amount of styles formed in this era as people experiment with combining creativity, logic and new innovations.</p>	<p><b>1900 - Present</b> <i>Also known as 20th Century Classical Era or Contemporary Classical Era</i></p>	<p>Stravinsky Schoenberg Britten (Eng) Aaron Copeland (USA) Bela Bartok</p>	<p>Popular music became a much broader spectrum during this era, with the birth of many new styles. Music can now be recorded and distributed. People's ability to travel and send music, means styles move freely across the world.</p>