

CLASSICAL MUSIC TIMELINE



Music described as “classical” is a term used very generally to describe the difference between classical music and popular music (pop, blues, jazz, rock etc). **Classical music** with a capital “C” also refers to a specific musical period between 1750-1810.

Our timeline begins in the year 1600. You could listen to different pieces from different musical periods, research into pieces you enjoy, find out about composers and their lives or use the BBC Ten Pieces resources to get playing at home.

BAROQUE PERIOD: 1600-1750

Instruments became as important as singing, and **orchestras** began to form. Alongside string instruments such as violins and cellos, other instruments such as flutes, oboes, bassoons, horns, trumpets and timpani (big loud drums that are also known as kettle drums) were also included in the orchestra. The **harpsichord** was a prominent keyboard instrument.

Fun Listening:

BBC Ten Pieces: *Zadok the Priest* by George Frederic Handel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/30nHpvOr318zHcS033gLWg7/zadok-the-priest-by-george-frideric-handel>. **Fun fact:** Are you familiar with the UEFA Champion's League Football Theme? This is based on *Zadok the Priest*. It was written in 1992 by Tony Britten:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6VbdWjOQBA>

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Fun Listening:

Watch and listen to **Miss Coleman** playing **Johann Sebastian Bach's Unaccompanied Suite No. 2 Sarabande** on her 'cello:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs0aPREnrhw&list=PLsCmFG1-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs0aPREnrhw&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvMIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=7&t=0s)

[QIOJvMIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=7&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs0aPREnrhw&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvMIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=7&t=0s) **Fun fact:** A Sarabande is a type of slow dance.



CLASSICAL PERIOD 1750-1810

Orchestras were now beginning to grow larger in this period. The **piano** and **clarinet** were invented in the form as we know them today. A typical **classical orchestra** would consist of:

String section: Violins, viola, cellos, double basses

Woodwind section: Flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons

Brass section: Trumpets and French horns

Percussion: Timpani (kettle drums)

Fun Listening:

Our #mpnlocalheroes **Classical Music** theme tune this week is 'Ode to Joy'. This is from Ludwig van Beethoven's 9th Symphony, which is the last symphony that Beethoven wrote. We hope you enjoy listening to the staff of MPN Newcastle playing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ6Aaw5fGMg&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=5

You can also find out more about Beethoven and his experience as a deaf musician by watching this documentary with Paul Whittaker OBE:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WowgLvtl00&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=10

Fun Listening:

BBC Ten Pieces: Ludwig van Beethoven's 5th Symphony:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2TQ7jtfINvsy1c1DTCTOpBw/symphony-no-5-1st-movement-by-ludwig-van-beethoven>

Local Heroes Classical Music: Mr Zuccaroli is the drummer in this less conventional performance of Beethoven's 5th Symphony:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmyOQJh0wQs&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=9



ROMANTIC PERIOD 1810-1900

During this period, the orchestra was really expanding and composers were experimenting with creating new sounds. The **saxophone** was invented and the percussion sections of orchestras became much bigger. Composers wrote music that was designed to tell a story (called **programme music**) and experimented with creating different moods through music.

Fun Listening:

BBC 10 Pieces: Edvard Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King*:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1rpRf1Q7cK683F9LlwqTb5x/in-the-hall-of-the-mountain-king-by-edvard-grieg>

Focus on listening to the dynamics and tempo. how the music starts slowly and quietly and gets faster and louder!

BBC 10 Pieces: Giuseppe Verdi's *Dies Irae* from Verdi's Requiem:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/giuseppe-verdi-dies-irae-and-tuba-mirum-from-requi%20em/zdfs2sg>

Fun Listening:

Get singing along with our MPN Karaoke version of the Toreador Song from Bizet's *Carmen*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ifdles9ac4g&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHOpc0irdzo&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=3

Fun Listening:

After all that loud and fast-paced music, sit back, relax and enjoy listening to **Mr Miller** playing **Nocturne Opus 9 No.2** by **Frederic Chopin**:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Icfippm1b2M&list=PLsCmFG1-QIOJvmIorUCso_Im7iTtQR8d8&index=8



THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTY FIRST CENTURIES

Composers throughout the twentieth and twenty first centuries have created and composed in a huge number of different styles. And alongside classical music, vast amounts of other styles have been created, including blues, jazz, pop, rock, rap, heavy metal. Musical theatre has also become very popular, and new styles continue to emerge all the time.

Fun Listening:

BBC 10 Pieces: Mambo from 'West Side Story' by Leonard Bernstein.

This piece features a huge percussion section:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-leonard-bernstein-mambo-west-side-story/zd9cscw>

Fun Listening:

BBC 10 Pieces: O Fortuna from Carmina Burana by Carl Orff. Listen to how clearly the choir articulate the words:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3Cj3llLqxGNB2jpd241vHwK/carmina-burana-o-fortuna-by-carl-orff>

Fun Listening:

BBC 10 Pieces Trailblazers: Earth by Hans Zimmer

Hans Zimmer has written a lot of film music, but composed this piece especially for BBC 10 Pieces and he describes it as his "personal celebration of the planet we live on: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-hans-zimmer-earth/zh4k382>

Fun Listening:

John Cage's Four Minutes and 33 Seconds is unusual for one main reason.

Can you find out why? You might also be able to produce your own performance 😊: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoAbXwr3qkg>