

Classical Music Cultures



Common Instruments in Classical Music

Strings: violin, viola, cello, double bass

Woodwinds: flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and finally the saxophone.

Brass: trumpet, trombone, tuba, french horn

Keyboards: organ, harpsichord, piano

Percussion: drum, timpani, cymbals, bass drum, snare drum



What is Classical Music?

- It follows a strict set of long-established guidelines as opposed to folk or popular music.
- Classical music developed most rapidly in Europe between the years 1750-1830.





Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- One of the world's most celebrated composers of all time.
- Was considered a musical genius.
- Composed his first symphony at age 8, his first opera at age 11.
- Died in poverty at age 35.



Chamber Music

Chamber music is classical music written for small ensembles. It was meant for private parties and small concert venues or, *chambers*.

As classical music was growing more and more popular, many families were signing their children up for music lessons. Composers wrote more music that was widely playable for beginners.



Theme and Variation

A form of music that begins with a main melody (*theme*), then becomes changed or altered throughout the piece (*variation*).



(Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A Major, K.581 Fourth Movement)

How do we think about Classical music?

Words people often use to describe classical music: *formal, complex, sophisticated*.

Film music can be considered to be a subgenre of classical music. Think about *Star Wars*.

What characteristics in classical music set it apart from traditional and pop music?

