

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

The Classical Period

Thumbprints of the Classical Period:

- Mainly homophonic texture with a melody that can be heard clearly over the accompaniment.
- Pianos completely replaced harpsichords. They could sustain and play dynamics.
- The symphony developed for the newly boosted orchestra, which now included more woodwind and brass instruments.

Styles

We looked at **concertos** in the Baroque period – large-scale works for orchestra and a solo instrument. They remained popular in the Classical period.

> Listen to Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5.

The **symphony** developed: a large-scale work for orchestra in three or four long sections known as 'movements'.

> Listen to Mozart's Symphony No. 40.

Melody/Harmony

Arpeggios are a type of **broken chord**. The notes of the chord are played one at a time in order, from low to high and then back. They were usually played on the piano.

Remember a **pedal** is a single note held while the parts around it change. An **inverted pedal** is a pedal played high above the other parts.

> Listen to the oboe in Haydn's Symphony No. 101 (2nd mvt) from around 1m.

Texture/Structure/Form

A common form in the Classical period was **theme and variation**. The main melody, known as the "theme" was heard at the start. The composer then made changes to the harmony, rhythm, melody and tonality in a series of sections known as "variations".

> Listen to Beethoven's Diabelli Variations.

Rondo form (A:B:A:C...) was also popular. The main theme begins, followed by a different section known as an **episode**. The theme then returns, followed by another different section. The piece continues in the same pattern.

> Listen to Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 (3rd mvt).

If you hear **imitation**, you will hear one musical idea played and then immediately copied by a different instrument.

A **coda** is an ending.

An **Alberti bass** is a style of accompaniment played on the piano, where the **broken chord** is played low – high – middle - high.

> Listen to Mozart's piano sonata no. 16.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

The Romantic Period

Style

The **Romantic** period followed the Classical period. The orchestra became even larger and music sounded more emotional than ever.

> Listen to...

Rhythm/Tempo

One way of conveying emotion in music was to use **rubato**, a term meaning to allow the music to get slightly slower and slightly faster.

> Listen to...

Texture/Structure/Form

The Romantic period celebrated virtuosos – musicians who could play their instruments incredibly well. **Cadenzas** were added to concertos – passages where the orchestra stopped to allow the soloist to show off.

> Listen to...