

Music History and Styles

Period	Baroque (1600-1750)	Classical (1750-1810)	Romantic (1810-1900)	20 th Century (1900's)
Intro	Music is thick and ornamented, with forward movement. A time of scientific discovery and grand church music.	Music is light, balanced and graceful, reflecting an increased faith in the power of reason in progress; age of enlightenment.	Music is passionate, expressing the movement called romanticism; coincides with the Industrial Revolution.	There is a diverse range of music, reflecting the diversity of life in the 20 th century, and great developments in science and art. A time of revolt, and expansion in vocabulary of sounds.
Keyboard Instruments Used	Harpsichord (strings plucked by a set of plectra so there is limited volume control), Clavichord	Fortepiano (5 octaves, hammers covered in leather, wooden frame, damper pedal operated by knee)	Pianoforte (in development – widening range, new inventions)	Pianoforte as we know it (hammers covered in felt, iron frame, damper pedal operated by foot, 7 ½ octaves)
Stylistic Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Polyphonic texture (more than one voice at a time) and imitation of voices is common - Unity of mood (same basic feeling throughout piece) - Unity of rhythm with driving beat - Melody is elaborate and ornamental, repeated often - Dynamics tend to stay constant, any change is sudden (terraced dynamics eg. <i>p</i> to <i>f</i>) - Long phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homophonic texture (melody and accompaniment) - Contrast in mood (can be sudden, but under control and logically conveyed) - Contrast in Rhythm (variety of rhythmic patterns) - Melodies easy to sing (may come from folk tunes) - Gradual changes in dynamics (cresc. & decres. were popular) - Balanced phrases, symmetrical structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dynamics, Pitch & Tempo: Wide range of dynamics, with sharp contrasts between loud & soft, & frequent cresc. & decres. Pitch is expanded - extreme registers used for increased brilliance & depth of sound. More changes in tempo eg. <i>rubato</i> - Harmonies became more complex as composers experimented with colourful & rich chords (eg. 9ths, 7ths) - Tone colour became more important, as piano improved in tone & pedal used more to create blend of sounds 	<p><i>Impressionism:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use of modal scales, whole tone scale, pedal points, rhythmic ostinatos, parallel chords, exotic sounding chords <p><i>Other 20th Century Styles:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increased use of the twelve-tone system *<i>Serialism</i> – use of the techniques of serialism to organize rhythm, dynamics, and tone colour *<i>Expressionism</i> – Stresses intense, subjective emotion *<i>Chance music</i> - composer chooses pitches, tone colours, and rhythms by random methods *<i>Minimalism</i> – steady pulse, clear tonality, repetition of short melodic patterns *Works containing quotations of other music *<i>Electronic music</i>
Popular Keyboard Compositions	Suites, sonata, variations	Sonatas, rondos, variations	Etudes, rhapsodies, impromptus	<p><i>Impressionism</i> – descriptive pieces, often containing water images</p> <p><i>Other</i> – Suites, bagatelles, studies, scherzos, preludes</p>
Composers	Henry Purcell, George Phillip Telemann, Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederic Handel, Domenico Scarlatti	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert	Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, Frederic Chopin, Johannes Brahms, Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi	<p><i>Impressionist:</i> Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel</p> <p><i>Other 20th Century Styles:</i> Igor Stravinsky, Dmitry Shostakovich, Bela Bartok, George Gershwin, Arnold Schoenberg</p>