



The Definition...

- *Classical music is a general term that people use to praise great composers such as Bach, Mozart and Beethoven
- *The word 'classic' tends to mean an art which is so good it will not be forgotten and enjoyed for a long time. Oliver Twist can be described as a 'classic' story by Charles Dickens in the same way
- *Classical music refers to music composed by musicians for musicians to play



Classical Forms and Purpose...

- *Classical music can be shaped in many ways. Different forms included: symphony, concerto, fugue, sonata, opera, cantata and mass
- *Music was written for many reasons. In the early days it was to be played in church. This is called **Sacred** music. Music not written for religious purposes is called **Secular** music. Sometimes composers were asked to write music for **special occasions (see 1)** (they were commissioned to write it) and some composers wanted to **show off a particular instrument (see 2)**. Some music was written for **dancing (see 3)**, others for parties at houses called **Chamber music (see 4)** and others for showing off **talented performers called Virtuoso (see 5)**. Composers experimented and wrote music that related to emotions, stories and scenes called **Programme Music (see 6)**.

Symphony	A piece of music for the orchestra usually divided into sections called movements. The classic structure is for 4 movements. (1. Allegro 2. Andante 3. Minuet 4. Allegro)
Concerto	A piece of music for a solo instrument accompanied by an orchestra. If the solo instrument is a violin, the music is called a Violin Concerto
Sonata	Music for a solo instrument often with a piano accompaniment
Cantata	Music for voices with instrumental accompaniment
Mass	This is sacred music with singing

The Orchestra...

- *The orchestra is the most common group of instruments for playing Classical music. There are four families of instruments in the orchestra: **strings** (violin, viola, cello and double bass) **woodwind** (flute, piccolo, clarinet, oboe, bassoon), **brass** (French horn, trumpet, tuba, trombone) and **percussion** (xylophone, timpani drum, cymbals, triangle etc)
- *The conductor stands in front of an orchestra and guides and leads the music

Key Pieces of Music to listen to...

- 1) Zadok the Priest by Handel written for the coronation of King George II in 1727
- 2) Prelude in C major from The Well-Tempered Clavier. This is from a set of pieces for the keyboard written by Bach to show off all major and minor keys
- 3) The Blue Danube by Strauss. This is a Waltz. A Waltz is a dance in triple time—you count in 3s when dancing
- 4) Trout Quintet by Schubert. A quintet is music for 5 instruments
- 5) Piano Sonata in B minor by Liszt. Only a phenomenal pianist can play this! Liszt was good friends with many famous composers including Chopin and Berlioz.
- 6) Symphony No 6 by Beethoven. This beautiful music describes the countryside.