



History of CLASSICAL MUSIC...

Classical music can be organised into 6 periods:

Medieval (1150—1400)

Renaissance (1400—1600)

Baroque (1600—1750)

Classical (1750—1820)

Romantic 1820—1910)

20th Century (1910+)

Here are some connections with the other 'Classic' subjects - Literature and Art! What else was going on during these times?



MEDIEVAL

MUSIC: A time of **Gregorian Chant** (unaccompanied religious music) and **Troubadours** (composers and performers singing about courtly love and chivalry—often accompanying themselves with a lute-which looks like a guitar and is plucked)

KEY COMPOSER: Guillaume de MACHAUT

ART: The BAYEAUX TAPESTRY was created in very early medieval times telling the story of the Norman Conquest of England.

GIOTTO is a famous artist who painted religious figures

LITERATURE: Geoffrey CHAUCER wrote **The Canterbury Tales**

FACTS: This was the time of the BLACK DEATH. It has been estimated that 200 million people died in Europe and North Africa of the plague, or pestilence as it's also known.

RENAISSANCE

MUSIC: Early forms of the bassoon and trombone appear. Music becomes more harmonious.

KEY COMPOSER: William BYRD and Thomas TALLIS. Tallis composed and performed for Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and ELIZABETH I!

ART: LEONARDO DE VINCI painted the **Mona Lisa** and BOTTICELLI painted **The Birth of Venus**

LITERATURE: SHAKESPEARE wrote his plays. These include the famous **Romeo and Juliet** and **Macbeth**

FACTS: GALILIEO, an Italian astronomer, was able to describe the moons of Jupiter and rings of Saturn with a powerful telescope. This is also a time of the *Printing Revolution*. It was now easier and cheaper to distribute music.

BAROQUE

MUSIC: More contrasts between loud sections and quiet ones and the development of the concerto. (A group of instruments accompanying a solo instrument). The trumpet and violin become popular.

KEY COMPOSER and KEY WORKS:

JS BACH—**Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor**

VIVALDI—**Spring** from **The Four Seasons**

ART: REMBRANDT painted **The Night Watch** and VERMEER painted **The Girl with a Pearl Earring**.

LITERATURE: John MILTON wrote **Paradise Lost** and DANIEL DEFOE wrote **Robinson Crusoe**

FACTS: The ROUNDHEADS led by OLIVER CROMWELL supported Parliament and the CAVALIERS supported the king. Parliament voted that the king, CHARLES I, was a traitor and had him beheaded. Oliver Cromwell became the new head of the commonwealth.

CLASSICAL

MUSIC: The orchestra grew in size and composers wrote more symphonies, concertos and operas. Melodies become more beautiful. The piano replaces the harpsichord.

KEY COMPOSERS and KEY WORKS:

MOZART—**Eine Kleine Nachtmusik** and the **Overture to The Marriage of Figaro**

BEETHOVEN—**Moonlight Sonata**

ART: TURNER painted **Fisherman at Sea** and many other seascapes. His work can be seen at Petworth House. John CONSTABLE painted **The Hay Wain**.

LITERATURE: JANE AUSTIN wrote **Pride and Prejudice** and **Sense and Sensibility**

FACTS: The British army led by the DUKE of WELLINGTON, fought the French army led by NAPOLEON at The BATTLE OF WATERLOO. Napoleon was a French General who tried to dominate his reign in Europe.