

Baroque Music



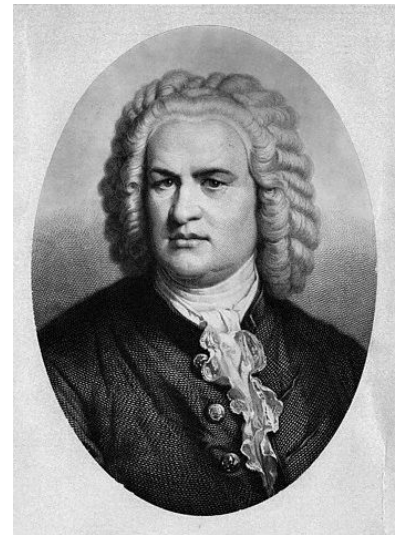
In the Baroque Era (from 1600-1750), music became more complex than it had been. Instrumental music (music without words) became more popular. Baroque style music sounds very fancy.

Two very important Baroque composers (people who write music) were **Johann Sebastian Bach** and **Antonio Vivaldi**. Here is a little bit about them:



Antonio Vivaldi was born in 1678 in Italy. His father was a great violin player. He studied music and became a great music teacher. He wrote great music for the strings. His best known work is called “The Seasons.” In it, he wrote a piece to represent each one of the seasons. Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Germany in 1685. Most of his relatives were musicians, so he grew up playing music. When he was young, his father taught him the violin. As a teenager, Bach was so good at music that he was hired to write and perform music. Bach had twenty children, and four of them went on to be composers just like their dad. In his life, Bach composed over 1000 pieces of music, including his famous organ piece “Toccata and Fugue in D minor” and his most famous choral piece “Christmas Oratorio.”



Classical Music



In the Classical Era (from 1750-1820), music was more structured and the people who wrote music followed strict rules. Instrumental music became the most popular kind of music. Classical style music sounds very beautiful and very structured.

Two of the most famous Classical composers were **Mozart** and **Beethoven**. Let's read a little bit about them!



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in Austria. His father was a conductor (someone who leads a musical group), a composer, and a music teacher. Mozart was considered a musical genius and started writing music at the age of six. By the age of fourteen, Mozart had composed four symphonies and two operas. In his lifetime, he wrote over 700 pieces of music and is considered one of the greatest musicians of all time. One of his most famous operas was “The Marriage of Figaro.”

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in 1770 in Germany. His father was a singer, and taught him piano and violin. By the time he was eleven, Beethoven had already written his first composition. He became a famous composer, teacher, and performer. As he got older, Beethoven began to lose his hearing. By the time he was forty years old, he was almost totally deaf. One of his most famous works, his Ninth Symphony, was written when he was deaf.



Romantic Music



In the Romantic Era (from 1820-1910) musical rules became less strict. Music became more expressive and emotional. The previous rules of music were often broken and new ones were made up. This meant that pieces in the Romantic era could sound extremely different from one another.

Three of the most famous Romantic composers were **Tchaikovsky, Rossini,** and **Saint-Saëns**. Let's read a little bit about them!



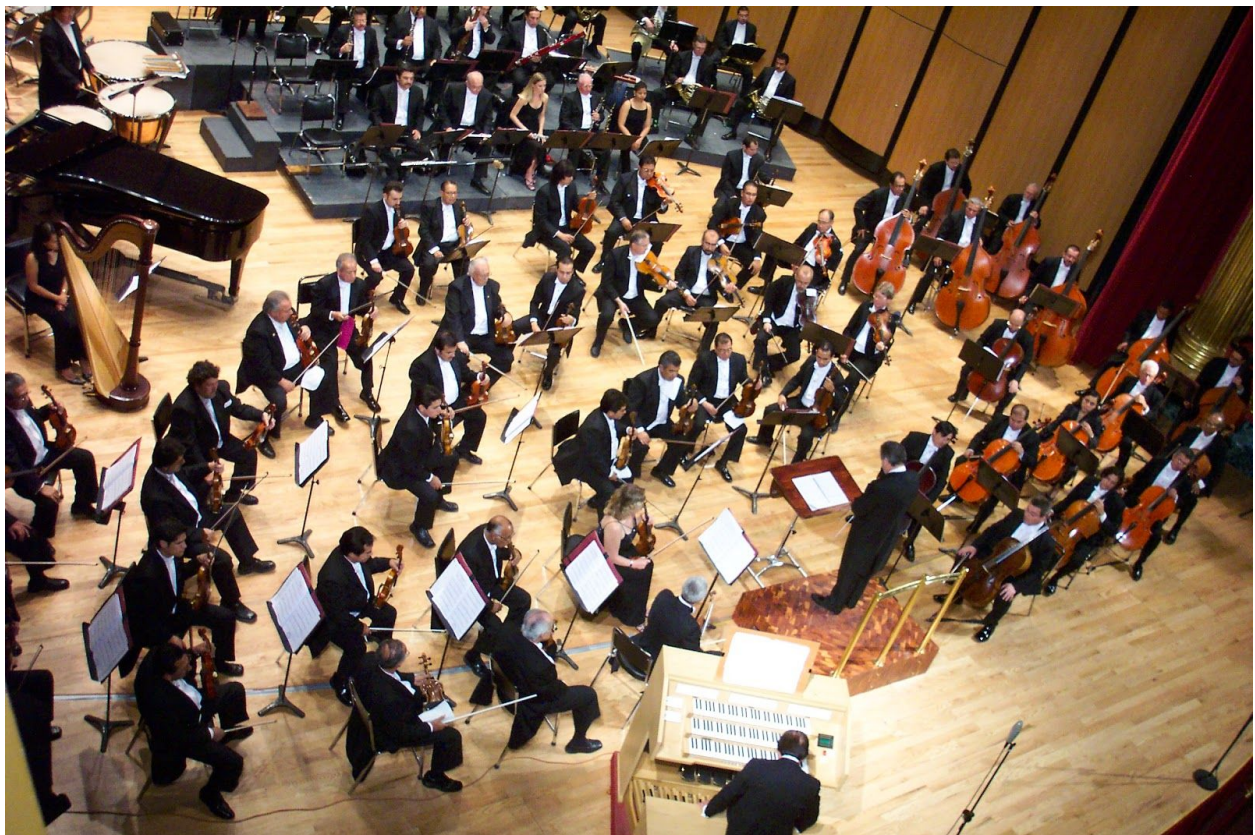
Gioachino Rossini was born in 1792 in Italy. His father was a horn player and his mother was a singer, so Rossini was taught music at a very young age. After studying opera, Rossini went to music school to learn how to play cello and write music. In his life, Rossini wrote 36 operas. One of his most famous is “William Tell.”

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky (chi-kawf-skee) was born in 1840 in Russia. At age five, he began to learn how to play piano, and fell in love with writing music. Tchaikovsky's parents did not think that he could make a living writing music, so they made him work for the government. He started to go to law school, but was so unhappy that he dropped out to go to music school. Some of Tchaikovsky's most famous works include the ballets “Swan Lake” and “The Nutcracker” as well as his Piano Concerto Number One.



Camille Saint-Saëns was born in 1835 in Paris, France. After learning piano from his aunt, he wrote his first piano piece at the age of three. Saint-Saëns enjoyed studying many different subjects including plants, math, astronomy, and music. His pieces were known for being beautiful and simple. In his life, he only wrote one opera: “Samson and Delilah.” One of the pieces from that opera, called the “Bacchanale” is considered one of the most famous opera pieces of all time.

MODERN MUSIC



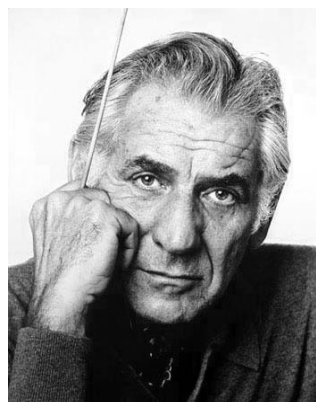
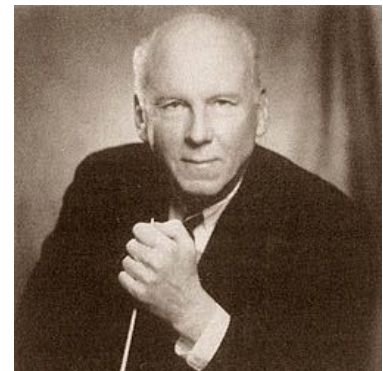
Music in the Modern Era (1910-present) completely ignores all of the rules in the eras before it. Composers are constantly pushing the boundaries of music, and come up with their own rules and techniques for writing and playing music.

Three very important composers from the Modern Era of music are **Stravinsky, Anderson, and Bernstein.**



Igor Stravinsky was born in 1882 in Russia. Much like Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky's parents did not think he could make a living writing music, so they sent him to law school. After completing half of his classes, he took a partial diploma and went to music school instead. Stravinsky was known for being very innovative with his music. He came up with new rules for rhythm, harmony, and form. In his _____ ballet, Stravinsky uses his music to set an intense and dark sounding scene for the dancers.

Leroy Anderson was born in Massachusetts in 1908. His mother was an organist at their church, and taught Anderson piano at a very young age. In addition to being a talented musician, Anderson was great at learning languages. He was fluent in nine languages including Swedish, German, and Italian. Anderson became known for writing music that incorporated things that would not be considered instruments such as sandpaper and typewriters. In his piece, The Typewriter, Anderson uses a real typewriter to play along with the orchestra.



Leonard Bernstein was born in Massachusetts in 1918. He is considered one of the most talented and successful American composers in history. He wrote many different styles of music including choral works, ballets, music for film and theatre, operas, and piano pieces. One of his most successful works was _____ which was a play that eventually became a movie. In it, Bernstein took inspiration from the streets of New York to create a diverse musical sound.