

Classical characteristics

Classical Orchestra

- **strings** - violin, viola, cello, double bass, and sometimes guitar
- **woodwind** - recorder or wooden flute, oboe, bassoon and clarinet
- **brass** - trumpet, horns (with valves by the end of the period)
- **percussion** - timpani (kettledrums) and sometimes triangle, hand cymbals and bass drum
- **key** - fortepiano

Classical orchestras were bigger in size and as instrument building improved so did the range of dynamics in the performance. The harpsichord was replaced with the fortepiano, the precursor to today's modern piano.

Musical characteristics of Classical music

- Lighter, clearer textures than Baroque – mainly homophonic (melody with accompaniment) but still polyphonic textures in places
- Clear cut, balanced phrases with shorter, elegant melodies
- Harmonies are still diatonic but with increasing colourful chromatic chords as period progresses
- More variety and contrast within a piece – frequent changes of mood and timbre
- Graded dynamics – use of crescendo and sforzando
- Harpsichord disappears and replaced by piano (solo and chamber music as well as piano concerto)
- Instrumental music becomes more dominant though still vocal music forms
- Concerto grosso disappears – only solo concerti
- Rise of the symphony and string quartet

Main styles of music

Vocal

Opera, Oratorio

Recitative, Aria, Duet, Choruses

Instrumental

Solo concerto, Symphony, string quartet

Sonata, Piano trio, Serenades, Divertimento

Main forms/ structure

- *Sonata Form (esp for 1st movement of sonatas, symphonies, concerti, chamber music)*
- *Rondo form (often final movement)*
- *Minuet and Trio (often 3rd movement)*
- *Scherzo (sometimes replaces Minuet and Trio)*
- *Theme and Variations*

SYMPHONY

Mozart – Jupiter Symphony
Movt 1

Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

What features point to it being from the Classical period?

1st subject

Flauto.
Motif 1 - bars 1-2

Oboi.

Fagotti.

Corni in C.

Trombe in C.

Timpani in C.G.

Violino I.

Violino II.

Viola.

Violoncello e Basso.

Same as bars 1-2 but up a 5th

Motif 2- bars 3-4

Similar to bars 3-4. Same dynamic, instruments.

Imperfect cadence

Bassi

This musical score shows the first subject for a symphony. The instruments listed on the left are Flauto, Oboi, Fagotti, Corni in C, Trombe in C, Timpani in C.G., Violino I, Violino II, Viola, and Violoncello e Basso. The score is in 3/4 time. Red annotations highlight specific motifs and structural elements: 'Motif 1 - bars 1-2' is boxed in red; 'Motif 2- bars 3-4' is also boxed in red and marked with a red star; a red arrow points to a passage 'Same as bars 1-2 but up a 5th'; a red cloud-shaped box notes 'Similar to bars 3-4. Same dynamic, instruments.'; and 'Imperfect cadence' is written at the bottom. Red stars mark specific measures in the woodwind and string parts.

Tonic pedal in cello/ bass and timpani parts

This musical score shows a section with a tonic pedal. The bottom staves (cello/bass and timpani) feature a continuous eighth-note pattern. Red annotations include a box around the bottom staves with the text 'Tonic pedal in cello/ bass and timpani parts' and a red star. Red stars also mark specific measures in the upper staves.

2nd subject – tune 1

Extension of 4 bar phrase
with flute now doubling violin
1 up an octave

2nd subject – tune 2

Beethoven 5th Symphony Movt 1
Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

Beethoven 5th Symphony Movt 4
Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.(24 min 42)

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

2

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets in B $\flat$

2 Bassoons

2 Horns in E $\flat$

2 Trumpets in C

Timpani in C/G

Violins 1

Violins 2

Violas

Cellos

Basses