Get Started With Classical Music: Part 2

More interested in listening to a full orchestra than a solo violin? More interested in vocal music than instrumental? That's where *genres/subgenres* come in! Most classical music listeners develop a preference for particular styles.

Here are some of the most common ones:

- **Opera:** *opera buffa, opera seria, verismo, bel canto, grand opera, music drama*
- **Orchestral music:** *symphony, concerto, overture, symphonic poem, ballet, incidental music, suite*
- **Chamber music:** *piano trio, string quartet, instrumental sonata, instrumental duo/trio/quartet/quintet/etc!*
- **Art song:** *Lieder, mélodie, vocal chamber music*
- **Choral music:** *oratorio, mass, cantata, motet, vespers*
- **Solo instrumental:** *instrumental sonata, étude, prelude, nocturne*

Each of these genres/subgenres has its own set of standard characteristics, structures/forms, and other defining features. Each one has its own story of how it began, was brought to prominence, and has developed since - we highly recommend reading up on your favourite kinds of music!

Digital music collections usually categorise everything as "classical", rather than including more defining terms. By becoming familiar with the different genres/sub-genres, you will be able to identify the a specific genre/subgenre a piece of music may fall under. Sometimes there are clues in the title (for example, Mozart's "Piano Sonata No. 16 in C major"). You can often find useful information about a piece by searching the name of the piece and composer in your favourite search engine. Feel free to email us if you need some extra help - *contact@soundgardenclassical.com*!

Here are some suggested works to get you started for each of the main genres we've listed. Listen to the works and see what you can find out about them and about the composers who created them! Click the titles to listen.

Opera

George Frideric Handel - Alcina: Tornami a vagheggiar
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart- Don Giovanni: Madamina, il catalogo è questo
Giacomo Meyerbeer - Les Huguenots: Nobles seigneurs, salut!
Vincenzo Bellini - Norma: Mira, o Norma
Richard Wagner - Tristan und Isolde: Isolde kommt!
John Adams - Nixon in China: The people are the heroes now

Orchestral Music

Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 9 in D minor
Dmitri Shostakovich - Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor
Richard Strauss - Don Juan
Richard Wagner - Tristan und Isolde: Prelude (Act I)
Edvard Grieg - Peer Gynt (Op. 23)
Igor Stravinsky - Petrushka: Russian Dance

Chamber Music

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Clarinet Quintet
Franz Schubert - Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat major
Felix Mendelssohn - Octet in E-flat major
Antonín Dvořák - String Quartet No. 12 in F major
Debussy – Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp
Philip Glass - Symphony For Eight

Art Song

Robert Schumann - Dichterliebe: Im wunderschönen Monat Mai
Lili Boulanger - Quatre chants: Reflets
Ivor Gurney - Five Elizabethan Songs: Sleep
Pietro Mascagni - La tua stella
Fernando Obradors - Canciones Clásicas Españolas: La mi sola, Laureola
Maurice Ravel - Chansons madécasses: Nahandove

Choral Music

Rabanus Maurus - Veni creator spiritus
Johann Sebastian Bach - Christmas Oratorio: Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe
Franz Schubert - Mass No. 2 in G major: Credo
Sergei Rachmaninoff - Vespers: Bogoroditse Devo (Богородице Дѣво)
Benjamin Britten - War Requiem: Libera me
John Tavener - The Lamb

Solo Instrumental

Sergei Rachmaninoff - Prelude in C-sharp minor
Niccolò Paganini - 24 Caprices for Violin: Caprice No. 24 in A minor
Claude Debussy - Syrinx
Isaac Albéniz - Asturias (Leyenda)