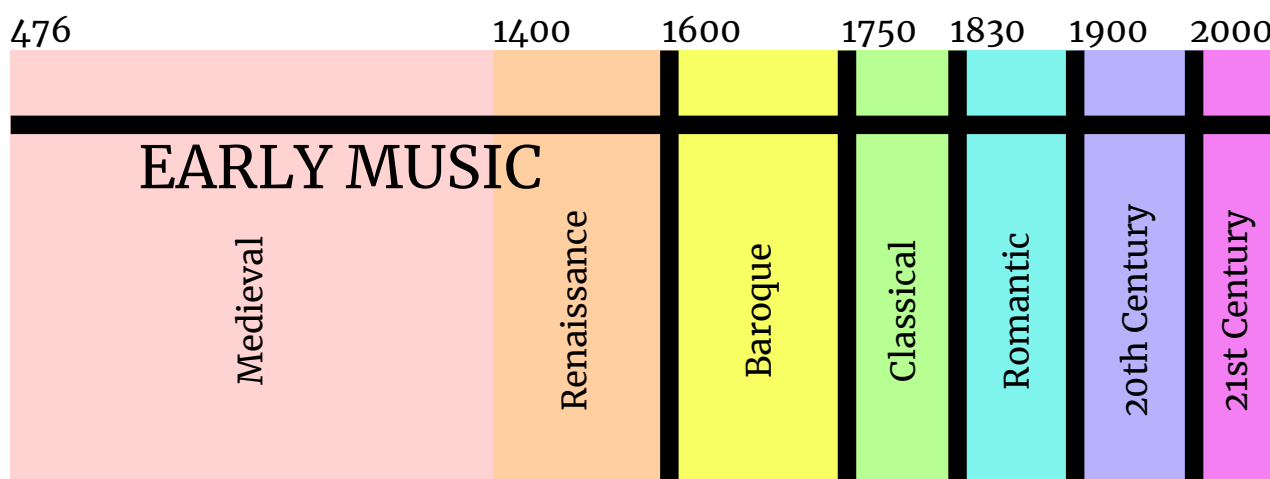




# Get Started With Classical Music: Part 1

The best way to get started is simple: **start listening!** The more you listen to classical music, the more familiar you will become with the sounds of different instruments, the composition styles of different composers, the differences between subgenres (such as a piano concerto and a piano sonata), and the many subtleties that are to be found within any given classical music work.

Classical music history is broken down into several different eras, based on general shifts in (Western) society (*note: other cultures have their own traditions of classical music*). The music composed during each era reflects aspects such as the availability of different instruments, the different contexts in which music was performed, the musical tastes of the time (and advancing towards the future), elements of society, and aspects of the composer's own life. The main time divisions to be familiar with are:



Here are some suggestions of composers and works to get you started for each of these eras. Listen to the works and read about the composers. Note: Some of the composers lived and worked during transitory times between two eras, so you may find that sometimes they may be categorised as belonging to a different era.

#### Medieval

Notkus Balbulus - Natus ante saecula  
Hildegard von Bingen - O quam mirabilis est  
Pérotin - Viderunt Omnes  
Léonin - Viderunt Omnes  
Adam de la Halle - Robin m'aime (Le jeu de Robin et Marion)  
John Dunstable - Quam pulchra es

#### Renaissance

Guillaume Dufay - Ave Maris Stella  
Josquin des Prez - Ave Maria  
Thomas Tallis - Spem in alium  
Giovanni da Palestrina - Hodie Christus natus est  
Willial Byrd - Ave verum corpus  
John Dowland - Flow my tears

#### Baroque

Claudio Monteverdi - Pur ti miro (L'incoronazione di Poppea)  
Henry Purcell - What power art thou (King Arthur)  
Antonio Vivaldi - Gloria in excelsis Deo (Gloria)  
Georg Phillip Telemann - Trumpet Concerto in D major  
Johann Sebastian Bach - Erbarme dich (St. Matthew Passion)  
George Frideric Handel - V'adoro, pupille (Giulio Cesare)

#### Classical

Christoph Willibald Gluck - Che farò senza Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice)  
Joseph Haydn - Symphony No. 104 in D major  
Luigi Boccherini - String Quartet in C major  
Carl Stamitz - Cello Concerto No. 1  
Muzio Clementi - Keyboard Sonata in A major  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Sinfonia (Le nozze di Figaro)

#### Romantic

Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor  
Franz Schubert - Der Lindenbaum (Winterreise)  
Frédéric Chopin - Etude No. 5 in G-flat major (12 Etudes, Op. 10)  
Giuseppe Verdi - Vedit le fosche notturne spoglie (Il trovatore)  
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No. 1  
Giacomo Puccini - E lucevan le stelle (Tosca)

#### 20th Century

Claude Debussy - Mes longs cheveux descendent (Pelléas et Mélisande)  
Richard Strauss - Di rigori armato il seno (Der Rosenkavalier)  
Sergei Rachmaninoff - Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini  
Igor Stravinsky - Symphony of Psalms  
Philip Glass - Spaceship (Einstein on the Beach)  
Steve Reich - Different Trains

#### 21st Century

John Adams - Batter My Heart (Doctor Atomic)  
Arvo Pärt - Adam's Lament  
Kaija Saariaho - Peut-être bien qu'elle n'existe pas (L'amour de loin)  
Thomas Adès - Der Tod (Totentanz)  
Unsuk Chin - Šu for sheng and orchestra  
Jennifer Higdon - Violin Concerto