



Get Started With Classical Music: Part 3

When you listen to a piece of music (of any genre!), you probably know quite quickly whether it appeals to you or not (some works can grow on you over time, however). But do you know WHAT it is about the music that you enjoy?

Music is made up of different elements:

- **Rhythm**: The element of time in music, including aspects such as duration (length of sound and/or silence), tempo (speed), and metre (organisation of beats).
- **Expression**: Dynamics (loud/quiet), changes in intensity/quality, articulation (how a sound is produced to create a certain effect).
- **Melody**: The horizontal representation of pitch (how high or low a sound is); the tune.
- **Harmony**: The vertical representation of pitch, combining pitches into consonant (agreeing) or dissonant (clashing) chords.
- **Timbre**: The "colours" of music/tones, including factors such as instrumentation, pitch range, and register.
- **Texture**: The number of individual musical lines (melodies) and the relationship these lines have to one another.
- **Form**: The structure of the music - its division into sections based on certain characteristic qualities or events.

When these different elements are painted onto a canvas of time, we get music. Every composer and every piece of music uses these elements differently, which is how we are able to distinguish one piece from another. Each listener has their own "taste" - what qualities they enjoy hearing for each of the elements. For example, one listener may greatly enjoy strong rhythms, clashing chords, and harsh instrumental timbres, while another may detest music which has these characteristics. Neither listener is wrong!

Feel free to email us if you need some extra help - contact@soundgardenclassical.com!

Here are some suggested works which treat the elements in unique and interesting ways. Listen to the works and consider how the composer chose to treat and combine the different elements. What do you think of each work?

Giovanni Gabrieli - Sacrae Symphoniae: Canzon septimi toni No. 2

Henry Purcell - Dido and Aeneas: When I am laid in earth

J. S. Bach - Invention No. 8 in F major, BWV779

Franz Joseph Haydn - Die Schöpfung: Im Anfange

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Don Giovanni: Don Giovanni, a cenar teco

Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 3

Niccolò Paganini - Nel cor più non mi sento

Franz Schubert - Gretchen am Spinnrade

Franz Liszt - Bagatelle sans tonalité

Richard Wagner - Tristan und Isolde: Prelude

Camille Saint-Saëns - The Carnival of the Animals: No. 13: The Swan

Modest Mussorgsky - Boris Godunov: Da zdrastvstvuet tsar Boris Feodorovich

Giacomo Puccini - Turandot: Popoli di Pekono

Scott Joplin - Treemonisha

Igor Stravinsky - The Rite Of Spring: Part II: The Sacrifice: Sacrificial Dance

Darius Milhaud - Scaramouche

William Walton - Façade: Jodelling Song

Olivier Messiaen - Turangalîla-Symphonie

Benjamin Britten - Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

György Ligeti - Atmosphères

Pierre Boulez - Le Marteau sans maître

Cathy Berberian - Stripsody

Friedrich Gulda - Cello Concerto

John Adams - Nixon In China: News has a kind of mystery

Rebecca Dale - Can't Sleep