

- Classical music is art produced in the tradition of Western music.
- It is difficult to give a precise definition because there are a lot of forms, genres and historical periods that can be titled as classical.

Classical Era of Music

- The Classical era (1750-1820) established the main norms of composition. Piano became the leading keyboard instrument.
- Composers generally used many harmonic fantasies without concentrating on the structure of the musical piece, musical phrases and motives.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- W.A. Mozart introduced two major genres – opera and the virtuoso concerto. His musical pieces followed such genres as symphony, opera, chamber music. Also he wrote a number of religious music.
- The most famous and influential work – Requiem. In 1791 Mozart was visited by a stranger in a grey robe. He ordered a funeral mess. As the legends say, it was the death that ordered a requiem for Mozart himself.

Johann Christian Bach

- Wrote more than 1000 pieces. Among them there are pieces for organ, clavichord, orchestra and chamber music. He also composed vocal and choral music.

Ludwig van Beethoven

- At the age of 26 he began to lose his hearing, but that didn't prevent him from becoming a great composer. He composed in several musical genres for a lot of instruments. His only opera is Fidelio, he wrote nine symphonies, 32 piano concerts and a significant quantity of chamber music

Russian Classical Music

- The Mighty Handful
- Alexander Borodin – opera Prince Igor
- Modest Mussorgsky- piano suite Pictures at an Exhibition
- Pyotr Tchaikovsky – Swan Lake,

Influence

- Cinema: directors use extracts from pieces by great composers.
- Rock-music: the tonality used by rock-musicians was developed by classical