

## A. You MUST understand Western Classical Music in a Historical Context ... ALWAYS.

Periods in Western Classical Music		Important Compose Instruments introduced	
1 Middle Ages	1420 AD and earlier.		
2 Renaissance	1420 to 1600	Madrigals, Dowland, Praetorius	Harp, Harpsichord, Lute, Recorder, Gittara, Zyther, Transverse Flute
3 Baroque	1600 to 1750	Purcell, Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Telemann, Bach, Handel	Organ, Strings, Klavier, Brass, Baroque Instruments
4 Classical	1750 to 1820	Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelsohn,	Ballet, Opera, Piano, the orchestra
5 Romantic	1820 to 1900	Paganini, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, Wagner, Strauss	Saxophone, concert flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, french horn
6 Modern Era	1900 to date	Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Elgar, Puccini, Mahler, Sibelius.	Classical Guitar, Bands

## B. SIGNIFICANT FACTORS TO RESEARCH, EXPLORE and KEEP IN MIND ...

- 1 Western Classical Music is associated primarily with Europe.
- 2 You have to put this in the HISTORY of everything at the time.
- 3 The dominance of faith and religion. The Catholic Church.
- 4 Reformation. The Protestant Uprising. Martin Luther. Music influences in the Church
- 5 Germany over Spain? Baroque over Latin? Protestant over Catholic?
- 6 Geography of that time. The Baroque-German School. Italian School. French, Spanish, Russian later.
- 7 Influences of Invasions and Empire expansion. Support of Emperors and Kings.
- 8 Luxury, leisure, time availability. Travel. Weather Conditions.
- 9 Inventions. Metronome. The Printing Press. Lighting, keeping warm.
- 10 History of Materials for Instrument manufacturing. Woods. Guts. Metal. Local condition.
- 11 The British Empire and its ascendancy from the 1750's.
- 12 The American roots. Europeans going to the Americas. North. South. Spanish influences.

13 Slavery in America. African influence into America. Soul. Blues. Ragtime. Jazz.

### C. Classical Music Formats and Types ...

Solo	Just one instrument or voice.
Duet	Two instruments or voices.
Trio	Three instruments or voices
Quartet	This is the most stable, widely used musical format. For voices this could be Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass. Church Choir. We could have Male Voice Quartets. String Quartet. 1st violin, 2nd violin, viola and Cello Woodwind Quartet : Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon. Brass Quartet : Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba. Chorales, Madrigals for Choirs and Chorus are also typically quartets.
Quintet	Is mostly a Quartet with one other instrument. A flute quintet will usually be a String Quartet + Flute A piano quintet is not 5 pianos but usually a piano + string quartet.
Octet	Typically doubled. I.e. 2 of each of the 4 in a quartet.
Chamber Ensemble	A group of instruments where plays an individual and separate part
Band	An odd not-defined combination of instruments
Group	Could be a Marching band or Bandstand. (eg. Circus etc.) Contemporary use of a group of musicians. Pop, rock, country, jazz etc. The last 2 typically will not be playing Classical Music

### D. Classical Forms

Fugue	Fugues, Canons etc. early 2-part (or more) music
Suite	A series of dances or pieces of music in a particular sequence 1. A German Allemande, in 4/4 time, at a moderate speed. 2. A French Courante, (or Italian) in 3/2 time, at a moderately fast speed 3. A Spanish Sarabande, in a slow triple time. 4. An English Jig or Gigue, usually in compound time
Baroque Suite	A series of dances or pieces of music in a particular sequence 1. Bourée - a brisk dance in four time starting on the 4th beat of the bar 2. Gavotte - a medium tempo dance in four starting on the 3rd beat 3. Minuet - a graceful dance in triple-meter. 4. Chaconne - a stately dance in three (somewhat sarabande like) 5. Passacaglia - Strictly a variation form based on a bass figure.
Symphony	Complete work of music for an Orchestra
Sonata	Usually a format ... complete work for 2 or more instruments.
Cantata	Orchestra plus vocal church music
Oratorio	Orchestra plus vocal church music with spoken Biblical verse.
Concerto	Symphonic work with a focus and emphasis on one virtuoso instrument.
Opera	Sung and vocal theatre with a backing Symphony Orchestra
Worship	A substantial part of western classical music has its roots in Christianity.
Dance	Music to Listen and Music for Dance are 2 distinct halves even today.

## E. Select your Musical Instrument ...

Family	Classical	Inbetween or Some	Not-Classical
1 Strings	Cello Double Bass Viola Violin		
2 Percussion	Timpani Chimes Glockenspiel	Cymbals Castanets Triangle Xylophone Kettle Drum Bugle	Bass Drum Gong Güiro Snare Drum Tambourine Congos Bongos
3 Woodwinds	Concert Flute Clarinet Oboe Bassoon	English Horn Piccolo Cor Anglais Bass Clarinet Contra Bassoon	Saxophone Wood Whistle / Indian Flute Bagpipes
4 Brass	Trumpet Trombone French Horn Tuba	Cornet Euphonium	

## 5 8+ octaves Keyboard

Is too common, over AND mis-used term ... even computers have keyboards

Piano  
Church Organ  
Clavichord  
Harpsichord

Electronic Keyboards  
Casio Keyboard  
Hammond Organ  
Piano or Button Accordions  
MIDI keyboards

## 6 Fretted or other Stringed Instruments

Classical Guitar  
Harp

Mandolin  
Ukulele  
Banjo  
Balalaika  
12 OR non-6 string Guitar  
Electric Guitar  
Bass Guitar  
Rhythm Guitar

## F. Listening Tips

- 1 Thanks to the Internet you can gain access to a lot of material.
- 2 Read the theory behind anything and everything.
- 3 If you watch on youtube ...find the RIGHT thing to watch. Its' tough to find the RIGHT clip.
- 4 If you buy CD's or MP3 files ... get the RIGHT composition from the RIGHT players.
- 5 Any instrument can play any music from any period .... That's great it's still music ... BUT NOT GOOD.
- 6 Try to find the original composer, the original period, original piece on the original instrument(s).
- 7 If possible find this now ... the most AUTHENTIC original piece with instruments from that time.

## G. Playing or Performing Tips

- 1 If you are an Instrument Player-Performer now PLAY THIS .... Authentically.
- 2 Play this on the RIGHT Instrument ... the original way as the Composer intended it ... at THAT time.

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