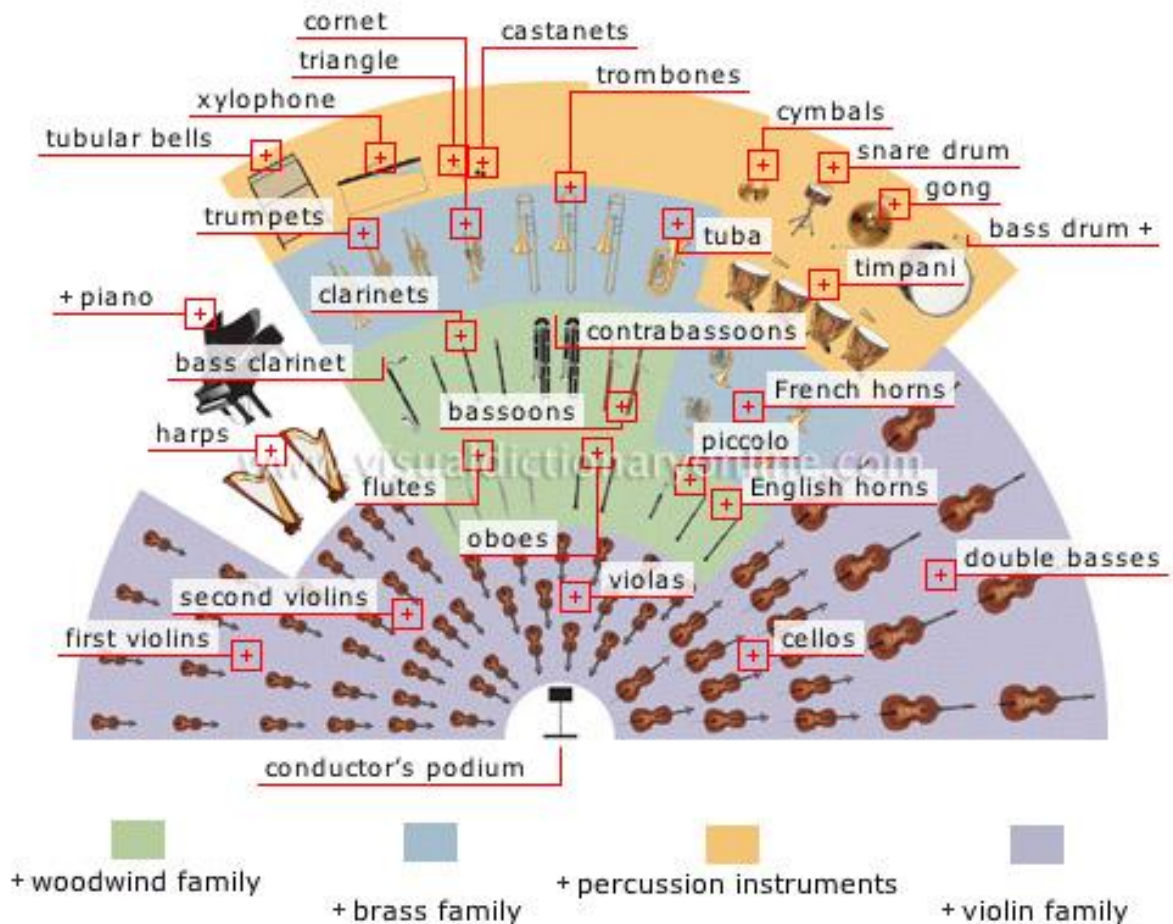


A Beginners Guide to a Classical Music Performance



Try and visually identify any musical instrument that you see. There are subtle differences as well. Violin vs viola. Cello and double-bass. Clarinet vs Bass Clarinet. The soprano, alto, tenor or bass saxophones. Similarly if there are Recorders.

Listen – and later to recordings at home – and differentiate and identify each instrument. When it enters. When it stops playing. When another instrument enters. When are certain sections dominant ... the strings; brass; woodwinds; percussion.

1. What is classical music?

Like many forms of music, defining exactly what falls into the category 'classical' is difficult. It broadly refers not only to the 'Classical period', but also Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic and Modern eras of written music from the 12th century right up to the present day. Generally,

classical music is played by ensembles comprised of some or all of the families of instruments: strings, woodwind, brass & percussion. Extremely subtle to no electronic amplification for any instruments.

2. How do I know if I'll like it?

The best way to find out. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms tunes are all around us and many modern pop-groups have copied their tunes. If you have been to a Church a lot of the chants, songs, carols are written by Classical Composers including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, then you'll have already experienced some classical music anyway. Classical music isn't just concertos and symphonies you can hear it everywhere - mobile phone ringtones, adverts, Classic FM and film scores.

3. Can I bring my children?

Children are most welcome at concerts. By the age of eight, many young people will get a lot out of a concert. From time to time there are specially programmed family concerts that are particularly suited to a younger age range. However complete silence is expected and in a quiet passage even the squeak of a chair or clearing of your throat can change the mood in the entire auditorium.

4. What should I wear?

Many people attending a concert treat it as a special occasion and therefore, enjoy dressing up a bit; however it is entirely up to you. There is no set dress code and you should wear whatever you feel most comfortable in. The most important thing is that you feel relaxed and enjoy the music. By and large no one will notice or care what you are wearing.

5. When should I arrive?

It is probably best to arrive at the concert hall at least half an hour before the performance starts. This will give you some extra time to collect your booked tickets, buy any pre-performance drinks and programmes that you may require and generally get comfortable before the concert begins. To help reduce distracting noises during the performances, there are usually designated pauses in each programme when late arrivals will be able to be seated. If you arrive late, we recommend that you wait close to your seating area's entrance so that you can be seated as soon as the pause occurs. If you have to leave a concert before its end, please do so between programme works.

6. How long is a typical performance?

Programme length varies, but a typical performance lasts about two hours, including one interval. Most other events run about the same length, some a little shorter, some a little longer. You can always ask the box office for an estimated length.

7. When do I clap?

When a piece is complete. It can be difficult to tell when a piece is over, so a good tip is to watch out for the conductor. Conductors will hold still at the end of a piece, and then noticeably relax, put their arms by their sides and turn to face the audience to receive their applause. It is great anyway to enjoy the moment of silence just after the piece has finished. If you are unsure as to whether the piece has finished, wait for someone else to clap! Many works in classical music, such as a Beethoven symphony or Mozart piano concerto, have three or more movements or sections, with a short pause in between each of them. It has become customary over time not to clap during these short pauses. To find out the number of movements (and corresponding number of pauses) in a piece, turn to the programme page in your concert programme - you will find that each work is subdivided by movement (usually indicated by tempo markings in Italian). After the last movement, you can clap as much as you like.

8. Can I bring my mobile phone?

All telephone equipment should be turned off prior to entering the concert hall. Patrons wearing alarm watches and/or electronic paging systems are requested to also turn them off before entering the concert hall. If you anticipate an emergency, keep your phone on silent mode.

9. Can I take pictures or record the performance?

Cameras as well as other recording devices can create major distractions for the musicians and audience members around you. As a result, no cameras, video cameras or tape recorders are permitted in concert halls. Also not permitted if there are copyright infringements involved.

10. What are all the different instruments?

A full symphony orchestra can look bewilderingly large on the stage, and it helps to understand what everyone does. The instruments at the front of the stage are the 'String Section'. On the left hand side of the stage are the violins, the highest member of the family, followed from left to right by the violas and cellos, and finally the double basses at the back on the right. Behind the 'String Section' sit the 'Woodwind Section', generally in two rows. In the first row come the flutes and oboes, and behind them are the clarinets and bassoons. Depending on what piece is being played, you might also see the piccolo, cor anglais, bass clarinet or contra bassoon to help out playing very high or low notes. Behind the 'Woodwind Section' you'll see the 'Brass Section'. On the left of the stage are the French horns, and on the right trumpets, trombones and finally tubas. At the very back of the stage comes the percussion, dominated by the timpani (kettle drums).

11. Why are certain instruments not there?

Noticeable absentee modern popular instruments in a Classical Orchestra or Electric or Box Guitars and Saxophones. Many other instruments do not fit into a orchestra. The reasons are technical and never political. These do not fit and are mostly NOT a part of any Classical written music.

Depending on the concert – if a concerto - you may have a piano, harp or classical guitar. Western Classical Music - compared to India Carnatic or Hindustani is vertical where you typically focus on one virtuoso at any given time - that is you have to learn to listen to ALL the instruments ALL the time.

12. What are the different performances available?

With no vocal singing and only instruments and nearly a full evening programme will usually be Symphony. A smaller group playing less lengthy pieces may be a Sonata. Church music usually with words is called a Cantata. In a work of orchestral work has been written for one or two dominant instruments its called a concerto. Such as Flute and Harp Concerto, Violin or Piano Concerto or Classical Guitar Concerto. A group of 4 typically playing SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor Bass) is called Quarter. A quartet could be Strings, Woodwinds, or Brass. You may have a fifth instrument to form a Quintet. These and doubling a Quarter to form an Octet with a few more instruments are the basis for a Chamber Orchestra performing in smaller halls to smaller audiences. An opera is when an orchestra with vocals and stage, actors and theatre is combined.

13. What does the Conductor do?

A composer would have written the music sometime in the last 6 centuries. Performers practice and perform these pieces. Lyrics and song-writers may have added lines as the libretto to some works of music. The conductor brings out the best out of the group. Selection of pieces, the tempo, the volume, the colour, characteristics and 'very-life' of the piece is brought out by the conductor prior and during the performance. He may also be the Business or Professional Manager, Leader, Mentor, Teacher for that group.

14. Will I enjoy it?

We hope so, but everyone has different tastes. If you don't know what you like, try and pick something you've heard on TV or at the cinema and enjoyed. Even if you don't know the pieces, chances are you'll enjoy something in the programme (if you, don't there's always the interval!). If you're new to classical music keep going .. Nothing worth acquiring in this world is easy; including the acquisition of a taste in Classical Music.

15. How can I find out more about classical music?

Many concerts have pre or post concert events, designed to enhance your concert going experience. From players' perspectives to discussions with composers, often illustrated with live or recorded examples, you are certain to discover something new!

What are they playing?

From what era is the music?

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

What is the musical group?

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 An odd not-defined combination of instruments
Band	Could be a Marching band or Bandstand. (eg. Circus etc.)
Group	Contemporary use of a group of musicians. Pop, rock, country, jazz etc. The last 2 typically will not be playing Classical Music

What is the musical style and format?

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.



Contact :

Casper Abraham
casper@themusicinternational.com
+91 98450-61870

Music International
62-B Modi Residency
Millers Road, Benson Town
Bangalore 560 046 INDIA
Website at <http://themusicinternational.com>
Email : thedean@themusicinternational.com