

Music Masters: Famous Composers Flashcards

Learning objective: To identify key periods in music history and recognise the contributions of significant composers, as per the Year 5 Music curriculum.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of musical history. Read the question or term on the front, try to answer it, then check the back for the definition or explanation.

What is a 'composer'?

A person who writes and creates music, often using musical notation to record their ideas for others to play.

Who was Ludwig van Beethoven?

A famous German composer who transitioned music from the Classical to the Romantic period and continued to write masterpieces even after losing his hearing.

What is a 'Symphony'?

A long and complex piece of music written for an entire orchestra, typically consisting of four different sections called movements.

Which period of music is J.S. Bach famous for?

The Baroque period, known for its intricate melodies and the development of counterpoint.

What is a 'Concerto'?

A musical composition for a solo instrument accompanied by an orchestra.

Who was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

A highly influential Classical composer who began writing music as a young child and composed over 600 works in his lifetime.

What is the role of an 'Orchestra'?

A large group of musicians who play together on a variety of instruments, such as strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion, led by a conductor.

Define the 'Romantic' period of music.

A time in the 19th century when composers focused on expressing strong emotions, imagination, and nature in their music.

What is 'Musical Notation'?

A system of written symbols used by composers to communicate how a piece of music should be played, including pitch and duration.

How did Max the Monkey describe a 'Tempo'?

The speed at which a piece of music is played, which can be fast (allegro) or slow (adagio).

What is a 'Melody'?

A sequence of musical notes that are satisfying to listen to and form the main tune of a song or piece.

Who might use 'Dynamics' in a composition?

A composer, to tell the musicians whether to play loudly (forte) or softly (piano) to add expression to the music.