

Mastering the Masters: A Guide to Classical Composers

Step into the concert hall and discover the genius behind the melody!

- A composer is a person who writes music, using musical notation to tell performers which notes to play and for how long.
- The Baroque period (1600–1750) is famous for its complex musical patterns and the use of the harpsichord.
- During the Classical period (1750–1820), composers focused on clear melodies, balance, and structure in their music.
- The Romantic period (1820–1900) saw composers write music filled with deep emotion and storytelling to express big ideas.
- A full musical score is a document that shows the parts for every single instrument in an orchestra playing at the same time.
- Max the monkey loves to count the beats in a bar to ensure the tempo remains steady throughout the entire performance.

Did you know? Did you know that before computers and recording devices existed, composers had to write every single note by hand using a quill and ink? They had to imagine the sound of an entire orchestra playing together in their heads before they even wrote the first mark on the paper!

Key vocabulary: Composer · Orchestra · Symphony · Notation · Baroque · Classical · Romantic · Score