

Mastering the Masters: A Music History Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and understand the contributions of influential composers to the development of musical history, focusing on the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of famous composers. Read the front carefully, then reveal the answer to see if you can identify their era, key works, or musical significance.

Johann Sebastian Bach

A German composer of the Baroque period, famous for his complex 'counterpoint' style and for writing over 1,000 pieces of music, including the Brandenburg Concertos.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

A child prodigy from the Classical period who composed over 600 works, including 'The Marriage of Figaro' and 'Eine kleine Nachtmusik'.

Ludwig van Beethoven

A composer who bridged the gap between the Classical and Romantic eras. Despite losing his hearing, he composed powerful symphonies, such as the Ninth Symphony.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

A famous Romantic composer known for his melodic and emotional music, including well-known ballets like 'The Nutcracker' and 'Swan Lake'.

Define the term 'Symphony'

A long, elaborate musical composition for a full orchestra, typically structured in four distinct movements.

What is an 'Orchestra'?

A large group of musicians who play together using various instruments, usually including strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion sections.

Clara Schumann

A brilliant Romantic-era pianist and composer who was one of the most distinguished musicians of her time, known for her technical skill and expressive compositions.

What is 'Dynamics' in music?

The varying levels of volume in a piece of music, often indicated by terms like 'piano' (soft) and 'forte' (loud).

Define the 'Baroque' period

A period in music history from approximately 1600 to 1750, characterised by ornate detail and complex musical structures.

Antonio Vivaldi

A Baroque composer and violin virtuoso, best known for his violin concertos titled 'The Four Seasons', which depict the changing weather of the year.

What is a 'Concerto'?

A musical composition for a solo instrument accompanied by an orchestra, designed to show off the skill of the soloist.

Frédéric Chopin

A Romantic-era composer who focused almost exclusively on the piano, creating beautiful and challenging pieces known as nocturnes and polonaises.