

# MUSIC



## YEAR 5

Activities and learning materials

# GREAT COMPOSERS

## Summer term 1 week 1

### HELLO!

This time we will learn about some great composers  
from classical period.

### What is the *CLASSICAL PERIOD* of MUSIC?

*The Classical period is most known for its compulsion for structural clarity in music.*

The specific meaning refers to the music from the **1775 to 1825**.

The **Classical period** expanded upon the Baroque period, adding a majorly influential new musical form: the sonata. This period also saw the development such q genre like the concerto, symphony, sonata, trio, and quartet.

### The Main Characteristics of Classical Music

Emphasis on beauty, elegance and balance. More variety and contrast within a piece than **Baroque**:

Dynamics  
Instruments  
Pitch  
Tempo  
Key  
Mood  
Timbre

**Classical music** greatly emphasized **homophonic melodies**, meaning that there was a **single melody** that all the instruments played, instead of the **layered melodies** of the Baroque period.



# Ludwig van Beethoven

December 16, 1770 - March 26, 1827

- Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. His father, who was a singer, was his first teacher. After a while, even though he was still only a boy, Ludwig became a traveling performer, and soon, he was supporting his family.
- In his early twenties, Beethoven moved to **Vienna** (Austria), where he spent the rest of his life. Beethoven was one of the first composers to make a living without being employed by the church or a member of the nobility.
- At first, he was known as a brilliant pianist. But when he was around 30 years old, Beethoven started going deaf. Even though he could no longer hear well enough to play the piano, Beethoven composed some of his best music after he was deaf!
- Beethoven is considered one of the greatest musical geniuses who ever lived. He may be most famous for his nine symphonies, but he also wrote many other kinds of music: chamber and choral music, piano music and string quartets, and an opera.



# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

January 27, 1756 - December 05, 1791

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria, where his father Leopold was a violinist and composer. Wolfgang (or Wolferl, as his family called him) was a child prodigy. He composed his first piece of music at age five; he had his first piece published when he was seven; and he wrote his first opera when he was twelve. By the time Wolfgang was 6, he was an excellent pianist and violinist. He and his sister Maria Anna (known as Nannerl) traveled all over Europe performing for royalty.
- When he grew up, Mozart moved to Vienna, and tried to earn a living as a pianist and composer. But he had a lot of trouble handling the fact that he was no longer a child prodigy. Mozart was still a musical genius, but after he stopped being a cute kid, people stopped making a big fuss over him. Back then, musicians were treated like servants, but Mozart did not, and could not think of himself as a servant.
- Mozart was only 35 when he died. During his short life, he composed in all different musical forms, including operas, symphonies, concertos, masses, and chamber music. Today, he is still considered a genius!

## **Some useful links**

Story about Mozart and some of his music

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/shows/shows.php?id=198>

**Take a quiz after listening**

Story about Beethoven and some of his music

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/shows/shows.php?id=229>

**Take a quiz after listening**