The term “baroque” which means extravagant style, was originally applied to the architecture during this time, but it can also applied to the music. The music could be described as extravagant due to its “ornamental” sound. The Baroque Period was the first period where instrumental music was equally as important as vocal music. It is also the first period where people went to vocal and orchestral concerts for the sole purpose of hearing the music. Up until this point music was written mainly for use during church services. However, most composers still made their living working for the church.

Prior to the Baroque Period, a piece of music would sound pretty much the same from start to finish. Then instrumental composers began to put contrasting sections in their works. Composers would place a slow section after a fast one, or a soft section after a loud one.

New musical forms created during the Baroque Period include the sonata, cantata, oratorio, and opera. Our chosen piece from this period, Entrance of the Queen of Sheba by George Frideric Handel is from the oratorio Solomon.

The orchestras during the Baroque Period were very different from today’s orchestras. Today, a composer writing for orchestra knows which instruments will be available. In the Baroque Period, however, an “orchestra” was likely to be comprised of whatever musicians were available at the time. Eventually composers began to specify which instruments should play each part. Many of these instruments used were similar to today’s instruments. The violin, viola, cello, and bass violin developed during this period. Flutes and oboes became more like today’s versions, and around 1700, the first clarinets were used. Trombones were similar, but trumpets had no valves and were difficult to play. Some even had slides like trombones.

Important Baroque Composers

Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)  
Known for:  
Virtuoso violinist, concertos, choral works, The Four Seasons

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)  
Known For:  
Organ works, chorales, Brandenburg Concertos, Mass in B Minor

George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)  
Known For:  
Oratorios, operas, Water Music, Messiah
Important Baroque Figures

Rembrandt van Rijn  
(1606-1669)  
Dutch Artist  
Paintings include Night Watch

John Milton  
(1608-1674)  
British Poet  
Wrote Paradise Lost

Molière  
(1622-1673)  
French Playwright  
Wrote Tartuffe

Christopher Wren  
(1632-1723)  
English Architect  
Designed St. Paul’s Cathedral

Isaac Newton  
(1642-1727)  
British Scientist  
Formulated the Law of Gravity

Gabriel Fahrenheit  
(1686-1736)  
German Physicist  
Invented Mercury Thermometer

Notable Events

1607: Jamestown, Virginia is settled.
1620: The Pilgrims arrive in the Mayflower at Cape Cod.
1626: St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican completed.
1636: Harvard University is founded in Cambridge, MA.
1642—1651: English Civil War, a conflict that ultimately establishes the supremacy of Parliament.
1664: British troops capture New Amsterdam and rename it New York.
1682: La Salle explores the Mississippi River and claims Louisiana for France.
1699: Peter the Great decrees that the new year in Russia will start on January 1 instead of September 1.
1709: Invention of the piano by Bartolomeo Cristofori.
1711: Clarinet used for the first time.
1718: Blackbeard is killed near Ocracoke Island, NC.
1729: North Carolina becomes a crown colony.
Baroque Art

St. Paul’s Cathedral, London designed by Christopher Wren (1708)

Nicholas-Sebastian Adam, Prometheus in Chains (1737)

Frederico Barocci, Aeneas’ Flight from Troy (1598)

Peter Paul Rubens, The Adoration of the Magi (1624)
CLASSICAL PERIOD

(1750—1825)

Many people use the term “classical” to describe orchestral or “serious” music. However, when musicians use the term they are referring to music composed between 1750 and 1825. The music during this time can be described as elegant, formal, and restrained. For the first time, instrumental music was more important than vocal music. The most important new musical form during the period was the symphony. Another new Classical form is the concerto.

In the Baroque era musical works had contrasting sections, such as fast-slow-fast, or loud-soft-loud, but there were no changes in tempo or loudness within these sections. In the Classical Period composers often changed the dynamics within a section.

The Classical orchestra was very similar to today’s orchestra except that it was smaller. The instruments were basically the same as those today. The string section was the most important part of the Classical orchestra. One instrument that was created during the Classical Period was the piano. The piano was much more appealing to composers than its predecessor, the harpsichord, because it could produce sounds from very loud to very soft.

Unlike the Baroque Period, where most composers were employed by the church, composers at this time were most likely employed by wealthy patrons. These patrons commissioned compositions from composers and paid them for their creations. Many composers traveled throughout Europe to perform their music and to hear the music of other composers. This resulted in a single style of music for the Classical Period across Europe.

Important Classical Composers

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)
Known for:
string quartet works, symphonies, piano works, Surprise Symphony, Emperor Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
Known For:
Symphonic, chamber, and choral works; operas, The Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, Requiem

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)
Known For:
Symphonies, piano works, Für Elise, Moonlight Sonata, Symphonies No. 5, 6, & 9
Important Classical Figures

**Benjamin Franklin**  
(1706-1790)  
American Satirist, Scientist, & Politician  
Invented the Franklin Stove

**Adam Smith**  
(1723-1790)  
Scottish Economist  
Wrote *The Wealth of Nations*

**Thomas Jefferson**  
(1743-1826)  
2nd U.S. President  
Wrote *Declaration of Independence*

**Jacques-Louis David**  
(1748-1825)  
French Painter  
Painted *The Death of Marat*

**Robert Burns**  
(1759-1796)  
Scottish Poet  
Wrote poem *Auld Lang Syne*

**Napoleon Bonaparte**  
(1769-1821)  
French Emperor and General  
Conquered much of Europe

Notable Events

1752: Benjamin Franklin proves that lightning is a form of electricity.  
1760: George III crowned King of England.  
1775—1783: American Revolutionary War  
1789: The French Revolution begins.  
1800: Napoleon defeats Austria and conquers Italy.  
1801: Thomas Jefferson elected President of U.S.  
1803: U.S. doubles in size through Louisiana Purchase.  
1810: The trumpet gets valves.  
1812-1815: War of 1812 between the U.S. and Britain.  
1813: Jane Austen publishes *Pride and Prejudice*  
1814: Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba.  
1821: Mexico gains independence from Spain.  
1825: Erie Canal opens
Jacques-Louis David, *The Death of Marat* (1793)

Jacques-Louis David; *Bonaparte Crossing the Alps* (1801)

Jean-Baptiste Greuze; *The Guitarist* (1757)

Hubert Robert; *Imaginary View of the Grand Gallery of the Louvre in Ruins* (1796)
The term “Romantic” pertains to music with an imaginative emotional appeal. Romantic Period music emphasizes personal feelings and emotions. Composers wanted to express their innermost thoughts through their music. This music contrasts greatly with the music of the Classical Period. Classical composers wrote very structured music, whereas Romantic composers were much freer with their music. Classical music sounded essentially the same throughout Europe, but Romantic composers began to write in nationalistic styles to show patriotism. Beethoven is considered to be the first Romantic composer. Although many of his works are in the Classical style, much of what he composed after 1800 had Romantic elements.

Music in the Romantic Period generally represented, described, or expressed something. These items ranged from elements of nature, to patriotism, to folktales and poems. A new form that developed during this time that fits these qualities was the symphonic poem. This was a long musical work for orchestra in one movement that attempted to tell a story. This type of descriptive music is called program music. Mussorgsky’s Night on Bald Mountain is a good example of program music.

Composers during the Romantic Period were not only free musically, but also as individuals. Most earned income from the sale of printed copies of their music or from arranging performances of it. They also could make money by touring Europe and North America conducting their music. Some were supported by wealthy patrons and a few were supported by their governments. Many composers became celebrities like today’s music stars, and some became quite wealthy. The orchestra grew in size during the Romantic Period and the skill of orchestration (writing for the various instruments) became an important part of the composer’s craft. Composers began to use the instruments of the orchestra in much the same way that an artist uses colors; for effect, contrast, and beauty.

Important Romantic Composers

Johann Strauss (1825-1899)
Known for: Conducting, Dance Music, Small Ensemble Music, Polkas

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Known For: Symphonic, chamber, and vocal works; Lullabye, Hungarian Dances, Variations on a Theme by Paganini

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Known For: Symphonies, ballets, piano works, 1812 Overture, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake
Important Romantic Figures

Antonin Dvorak
(1841-1904)
Known For:
Symphonies, Overtures, Dances, Symphonic Poems

Victor Hugo
(1802-1885)
French author, poet, playwright
Wrote Les Misérables

Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)
16th U.S. President
Gave the Gettysburg Address

Frederick Douglass
(1817-1895)
U.S. author, orator, diplomat
Led the abolitionist movement

Susan B. Anthony
(1748-1825)
U.S. activist, civil rights leader
Campaigned for women’s rights

Mark Twain
(1835-1910)
U.S. author, humorist
Wrote Tom Sawyer

1829: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Faust premieres.
1836: Battle of the Alamo.
1837: Charles Dickens publishes Oliver Twist.
1841: The word "dinosaur" is coined by Richard Owen.
1847: The Brontë sisters publish Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights and Agnes Grey.
1849: The first gold prospectors arrive in California.
1859: Charles Darwin publishes On the Origin of Species
1861–1865: American Civil War.
1867: The US purchases Alaska from Russia.
1873: Blue jeans are invented.
1879: Thomas Edison invents the light bulb.
1886: Coca-Cola is developed.
1892: Basketball is invented.
1893: Henry Ford builds his first car.
1896: Olympic Games revived in Athens.
CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

PROGRAM NOTES—ROMANTIC

Gustave Courbet; Stone Breakers (1834)

Gustave Courbet; The Cellist (1847)

Romantic Period

Art

Eugène Delacroix; La Liberté guidant le people (1830)

Eugène Delacroix; Le Massacre de Scio (1824)
Twentieth Century/Modern
(1900-Present)

The Romantic Period did not abruptly end in 1900 with the dawn of the 20th century. The years from 1890-1910 were a time of transition between the styles of the two periods. During this transitory time a style of music known as Impressionism evolved. Impressionism took its name from visual artists who used soft images to convey “impressions” of a scene rather than using hard, clear lines. Impressionist composers used the same idea in their music. They used new harmonies, chords, and melodies based on unfamiliar scales to paint a soft musical picture. These “musical pictures” were very similar to the program music of the Romantic Period, yet the new harmonies and scales they used heralded the beginnings of 20th Century styles. Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel are two of the composers most associated with this style.

The first purely 20th Century style, which evolved out of Impressionism, is known as Neo-Classicism (meaning “new” Classicism). This style was a return to the elements of the earlier Baroque and Classical Periods. Neo-Classical composers would use styles such as counterpoint from the Baroque, or the strict musical forms from the Classical, and then apply them to pieces with modern harmonies and melodies. After Impressionism, most composers abandoned the emotional and programmatic music styles of the Romantic Period and returned to the classical idea of music for its own sake. This influenced the development of many new styles. These new styles included: Serial Music, which is music that uses a series of 12 tones that are repeated again and again in the same order; Atonal Music, which is music without a tonal center; and Electronic Music, which is music that uses electronic devices such as synthesizers. Another new style that evolved was jazz, which was a truly American creation.

There is no single unified style for 20th Century music but there are some similarities between styles. Instrumental music remained more influential than choral, rhythm and counterpoint became extremely important while melodies became less singable, and harmonies became more dissonant.

There were also two new genres for composers to write in that developed during the 20th century: musical theatre and film. Leonard Bernstein composed for such musical theatre works as West Side Story, On the Town, and Candide. John Williams, on the other hand, composed music for numerous films, including the themes from Star Wars, Superman, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Jurassic Park, Jaws, and, recently, the Harry Potter series.

Notable Events

1900: L. Frank Baum writes The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.
1901: Australia becomes independent.
1903: First flight by the Wright Brothers.
1905: Albert Einstein formulates Special Theory on Relativity.
1912: Sinking of the RMS Titanic.
1914—1918: World War I.
1917: Russian Revolution.
1929: Wall Street crash begins the Great Depression.
1929: First Academy Awards Ceremony.
1939—1945: World War II
1932: The Charlotte Symphony is founded.
1939: The Wizard of Oz and Gone With the Wind open.
1949: Arthur Miller’s Death of a Salesman premieres.
1951: Color TV first introduced in the United States.
1960: The Beatles are formed in Liverpool.
Important Twentieth Century/Modern Composers

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
Known for: Orchestral works, ballets, Appalachian Spring, Rodeo, Billy the Kid, Fanfare for the Common Man

Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)
Known for: Musical Theatre works, Pal Joey, Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The Sound of Music

Danny Elfman (1953-)
Known for: Film & TV scores, Beetlejuice, Theme from The Simpsons, Batman, The Nightmare Before Christmas,

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
Known for: First Ethnomusicologist, piano works, orchestral works, folk music, Romanian Folk Dances

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
Known for: Impressionism; piano, chamber, and orchestral works; Boléro, Mother Goose Suite

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)
Known for: Serialism/Expressionism, Orchestral, chamber, and piano works, Pelleas and Melisande

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
Known for: Neo-Classicism, Symphonic works, ballets, The Firebird, Petrushka, The Rite of Spring

Charlotte Symphony

1963: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
1969: Moon landings and Woodstock Festival.
1977: Atari 2600 video game console released.
1980: Iran Hostages are released.
1984: Apple releases first Macintosh computer.
1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall.
2004: Facebook is launched.
Important Twentieth Century/Modern Figures

Sigmund Freud
(1856-1939)
Austrian Neurologist
Founding father of psychoanalysis

Marie Curie
(1867-1934)
Polish Physicist & Chemist
Developed Theory of Radioactivity

Mohandas Gandhi
(1869-1948)
Indian activist
Led non-violent Indian Independence Movement

Albert Einstein
(1879-1955)
German Scientist
Developed Theory of Relativity

Pablo Picasso
(1881-1973)
Spanish Artist
Painted Guernica

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
(1882-1945)
32nd U.S. President
Led U.S. through the Great Depression and WWII

Martha Graham
(1894-1991)
U.S. Choreographer
Choreographed Copland’s Appalachian Spring

Ernest Hemingway
(1899-1961)
U.S. Author & Journalist
Wrote A Farewell to Arms

Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929-1968)
U.S. Civil Rights Leader
Combatted racial inequality through non-violence

Bill Gates
(1955-)
U.S. Programmer & Inventor
Co-founder of Microsoft

Oprah Winfrey
(1954-)
U.S. Media Mogul
Award winning talk-show host and owner of Harpo, Inc.

J.K. Rowling
(1965-)
British Novelist
Wrote the Harry Potter series of novels
Impressionism

Edgar Degas; *La Classe de Danse* (1874)

Pierre-Auguste Renoir; *Girls at the Piano* (1892)

Claude Monet; *Bride Over a Pond of Water Lilies* (1899)

Modern Art

Post-Impressionism

Vincent Van Gogh; *Still Life: Vase with Twelve Sunflowers* (1888)

Georges Seurat; *A Sunday on La Grand Jeté* (1884)

Paul Cézanne; *The Basket of Apples* (1894)
Abstract

Wassily Kandinsky; Composition X (1939)

Expressionism

Edvard Munch; The Scream (1893)

Cubism

Pablo Picasso; Guernica (1937)

Pop Art

Andy Warhol; Campbell’s Soup Can (1968)

Juan Gris; Guitar and Clarinet (1920)