

- Baroque- means highly ornamented.
- Invention of the printing press created wide spread distribution of music for the first time.
- Opera became a popular genre.
- The music was very polyphonic.
- Instrumental music became more popular.
- The end of this period is marked by the death of J.S. Bach.

Baroque Period

1600-1750

- Most well known period of music history.
- Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven most widely recognized composers of the period.
- Composers started writing symphonies: a multi-movement work for the orchestra.
- The orchestra during the Classical period is very similar to the ensembles today.
- Music became less ornamented, lighter, and more **homophonic** in nature.
- Instrumental music took precedence over vocal.
- Opera became the most popular vocal style.

Classical Period

1750-1825

- Beethoven is the forerunner composer of this era; he straddles both the Classical and Romantic periods.
- Music became artistic, with focus on nature, the mystics, and autobiographical.
- Composers would write music in their own language and draw from personal experiences.
- The rise of the middle class was a big influence during this time period.
- The symphonic poem was a new form during this period.
- Opera was very grandiose and popular.

Romantic Period

1820-1900
