Kobe College Graduate School of Music Entrance Examination
Master's Program in Music

October 22, 2025

The origins of classical music can be traced back to approximately 1000 AD, encompassing over a millennium of musical evolution. This overview introduces key periods, themes, influential figures, and conceptual developments associated with the various styles of classical music.

Broadly, classical music is categorized into five principal eras: Medieval & Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern.

Classical

The Classical era of music, which lasted approximately from 1750 to 1820, marked a significant cultural transition in Europe. (1) The center of musical innovation shifted notably from regions such as Germany and France to Vienna, where artistic experimentation was highly valued by the elite. Consequently, many of Europe's most accomplished musicians migrated to Vienna, aspiring to establish their legacy within the history of music.

The Classical era is renowned for its emphasis on balance, clarity, and elegance in Western art music, with composers demonstrating distinct individual approaches to musical innovation. This period marks the emergence of diverse personalities and techniques, as new styles developed and music gradually became a personal means of expression, moving away from its traditional ties to church and state authority.

Notable figures during this time include Joseph Haydn, often referred to as the "Father of the Symphony." However, it is his friend, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose legacy has arguably surpassed that of any other composer from the era.

Mozart significantly influenced the evolution of classical music composition. Throughout his career, he consistently explored deeper emotional expression in music, highlighting themes such as humanity, drama, conflict, and personal discovery. This is especially evident in his final four operas and his renowned Requiem, where characters are depicted with exceptional vitality.

The Classical period also produced other notable composers, including Ludwig van Beethoven. Beethoven exemplified musical experimentation, building upon traditional classical forms while seeking innovative sounds. His contributions fundamentally transformed the musical landscape and left a lasting legacy. His nine symphonies redefined both the emotional range and

structural complexity of the genre, effectively bridging the Classical and Romantic periods and introducing programmatic elements and vocal components in the Ninth Symphony.

The impact of these works can be observed in subsequent choral symphonies by composers such as Mahler and Mendelssohn. (2) Moreover, the cultural significance of Beethoven's Ninth symphony persists, illustrated by their enduring associations with themes such as freedom, joy, and brotherhood, which continue to resonate internationally.

Romantic

During the transition into the Romantic era, musical techniques continued to evolve and develop further. This period saw a notable emphasis on piano music, with composers such as Chopin, Schubert, and Liszt engaging in innovative experimentation. Their efforts resulted in some of the most complex, nuanced, expressive, and distinguished works for piano and orchestra in history. Additionally, as established during the Classical period, the Romantic era was characterized by increasing differentiation in musical styles and approaches.

Romantic music is characterized by heightened emotional intensity, individual artistic expression, and an interest in the supernatural, nature, and nationalist themes. During this era, musical compositions featured extended, lyrical melodies, more complex harmonies with increased chromaticism, and the application of rubato to enhance expressive depth. Orchestras expanded in size and tonal richness, while innovative genres such as the symphonic poem and the lied emerged, frequently incorporating programmatic elements that connected the music to narratives or extra-musical concepts.

Richard Wagner incorporated these concepts into his operas, such as *Tristan und Isolde* and *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, which contributed to the evolution of late Romantic, post-Romantic, and early 20th-century music. These works also influenced subsequent developments in modern music and film scores.

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（1） 下線（1）を和訳しなさい。(10 点)
（2） 下線（2）を和訳しなさい。(10 点)
（3） 次の 1～7 の各問いについて、A～D の中から正しい答えを選びなさい。(5 点×7)

1. Where did the center of musical innovation shift to during the Classical era?

   A. Paris
   B. Vienna
   C. London
   D. Rome

2. Who is referred to as the "Father of the Symphony"?

   A. Ludwig van Beethoven
   B. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
   C. Joseph Haydn
   D. Felix Mendelssohn

3. What innovation is highlighted in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony?

   A. The introduction of jazz elements
   B. A reduced orchestral ensemble
   C. The inclusion of vocal forces and programmatic elements
   D. Composition solely for religious ritual

4. Which of the following is NOT listed as a characteristic of Romantic music in the passage?

   A. Increased chromaticism
   B. Use of rubato
   C. Systematic atonality
   D. Extended lyrical melodies

5. What does the passage say about Chopin, Schubert, and Liszt?

A. They originated the symphonic poem
B. They pursued innovative experimentation in piano music
C. They established the choral symphony
D. They revived Baroque style

6. Which pair of genres is mentioned as emerging during the Romantic era?

A. Concert symphony and cantata
B. Symphonic poem and lied
C. Suite de danse and serenade
D. Mass and motet

7. Which social tendency regarding Classical-era music is indicated by the passage?

A. A strengthened connection to church and state
B. A move away from church/state ties toward personal expression
C. A return to court ceremonial music
D. A shift of cultural centers from cities to rural areas

（4） モーツァルトの晩年の四大オペラと《レクイエム》は古典派音楽の発展にどのような影響を与えたか。文脈に則して日本語で述べなさい。(15 点)

（5） ベートーヴェンの《交響曲第九番》は古典派とロマン派の橋渡しをどのように成し遂げたか。文脈に即して日本語で述べなさい。(15 点)

（6） ロマン派音楽の特徴について、文脈に則して日本語で述べなさい。(15 点)