
**Medieval and
Renaissance Periods**

c. 500–c. 1600



Musical Events

Codification of Early Chants
(c. 600)
Beginning of Troubadour
Period (c. 1100)
Early Polyphony at Saint
Martial (c. 1100)
Development of Rhythmic
Modes (c. 1200)
Vitry's *Ars Nova* (c. 1325)
Beginning of Music Printing
(c. 1500)
Development of Italian
Madrigal (c. 1530)

Baroque Period

c. 1600–c. 1750



Development of Monodic
Style (c. 1600)
Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (1607)
First Public Opera House
Opens in Venice (1637)
Early Stradivarius Instruments
(1666)
Development of Concerto
Grosso (c. 1700)
Early Pianoforte (1709)
Bach's *Mass in B Minor* (1738)
Handel's *Messiah* (1741)

**Political, Social,
and Cultural Events**

Founding of Benedictine Order
(c. 530)
First Crusade (1096–1099)
Rise of Universities (c. 1150)
Papacy at Avignon (1309–1377)
Hundred Years' War
(1337–1453)
Invention of Printing Press
(c. 1440)
Fall of Constantinople (1453)
Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses*
(1517)
Council of Trent (1545–1563)
Reign of Elizabeth I (1558–1603)
Defeat of Spanish Armada (1588)

Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1601)
Founding of Jamestown (1607)
King James Version of Bible
(1611)
Thirty Years' War (1618–1648)
Civil War in England
(1642–1649)
Reign of Louis XIV (1643–1715)
Beginning of Age of Absolutism
(c. 1660)
Newton's *Principia mathematica*
(1687)
War of the Spanish Succession
(1701–1714)
Beginning of Age of Enlightened
Despots (c. 1740)

Classical Period

c. 1750–c. 1815



Development of String Quartet (c. 1750)
Period of Mannheim Orchestra's Greatest Influence (c. 1750s)
Haydn's First Symphonies (c. 1758)
Opening of La Scala Opera House in Milan (1778)
Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786)
Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* (1807)
Schubert's First Lieder (1811)

Romantic Period

c. 1815–c. 1900



Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique* (1829)
Founding of New York Philharmonic Society and Vienna Philharmonic (1839)
Liszt's *Les Préludes* (1848)
Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1859)
Verdi's *Aida* (1871)
Bayreuth Theater Opens (1872)
Invention of Phonograph (1877)
Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* (1894)

Twentieth Century

1900–



Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (1913)
First Recordings of Jazz (1917)
Schoenberg's Early Serial Works (1923)
Long-Playing Records Invented (1948)
Messiaen's *Modes* (1949)
Development of Aleatoric Music (1950s)
Founding of Columbia–Princeton Electronic Music Center (1959)
Beatles Become Popular in United States (1963)

First Volumes of French *Encyclopédie* (1751)
Seven Years' War (1756–1763)
Rousseau's *Social Contract* (1762)
Beginning of Excavations at Pompeii (1763)
Industrial Revolution (c. 1770)
American Declaration of Independence (1776)
Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781)
Beginning of French Revolution (1789)
Napoleon Defeated at Waterloo (1815)

First Railroad Built in England (1830)
Reign of Victoria (1837–1901)
Invention of Photography (1839)
Marx's *Communist Manifesto* (1848)
Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859)
American Civil War (1861–1865)
Unification of Italy (1861)
Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871)
Unification of Germany (1871)
First Impressionist Exhibition (1874)

Wright Brothers' Flight (1903)
Cubist Exhibition in Paris (1907)
World War I (1914–1918)
Einstein's *General Theory of Relativity* (1915)
Russian Revolution (1917)
Collapse of New York Stock Exchange (1929)
Hitler Rises to Power in Germany (1933)
World War II (1939–1945)
United Nations Founded (1945)
People's Republic of China Established (1949)
Sputnik (1957)
First Human Lands on Moon (1969)
Vietnamese War Ends (1975)