Masterclass

Basics of Classical Music

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Iran House of Music Summer 2023 Contents

- Notation and Intervals
- Human Voice and Instruments
- Rhythm, Melody and Harmony
- Musical Texture
- Music in the Middle Ages
- Music in the Renaissance
- Baroque Music
- The Classical Style

Day One

Music and Grammar



1- Notation and Intervals

- Sound
- Pitch
- Intervals
- Scales (Major, Minor and Chromatic)
- Pitch Range
- Dynamics
- Tone Color

2- Human Voice and Instruments

• Human Voice: Soprano - Alto - Tenor - Bass

- Women Voice:
 - Soprano Coloratura
 - Soprano
 - Mezzo Soprano
 - Alto
 - Contra Alto

2- Human Voice and Instruments (Cont.)

• Human Voice: Soprano - Alto - Tenor - Bass

- Men voice:
 - Tenor
 - Baritone
 - Bass

2- Human Voice and Instruments (Cont.)

Instruments:

The Instruments of a Symphony Orchestra:

- Strings: 18 Violin I, 16 Violin II, 12 Viola, 10 Cello and 8 Double Bass.
- Woodwind: 3 Flute, 1 Piccolo, 3 Oboe, 1 Cor Anglais, 3 Clarinet, 2 Bass Clarinet
 3 Bassoon (fagotto) and 1 Contrabassoon.
- o **Brass:** 4 Trumpet (1 Player), 6 Horn, 4 Trombone and 1 Tuba.
- Percussion: 4 Timpani, Side Drum and Bass Drum, Cymbal, Triangle, Xylophone and Celeste.
- o other instruments: Piano, Guitar, Harp, Mandoline and ...



3- Three Main Elements of Music: Rhythm – Melody - Harmony

• Rhythm:

- o Rhythm
- Time Signature
- Accent and Syncopation
- o Tempo
- Notation (Musical Alphabet)
- Key Signature
- o Time Values
- o Partiture



3- Three Main Elements of Music: Rhythm – Melody – Harmony (Cont.)

Melody

- Steps in Melody
- Leaps in Melody
- o Legato
- Staccato
- o Theme
- o Phrase



3- Three Main Elements of Music: Rhythm – Melody – Harmony (Cont.)

Harmony

- Consonance and Dissonance
- Chord
- Tonic chord and Dominant chord
- Arpeggio
- o Triad
- Tonality
- Tonal and Atonal

4 - Musical Texture

- Monophonic Texture
- Polyphonic Texture (Counterpoint)
- Homophonic Texture
- Binary
- Trinary
- Four Elements in Performance:
 - Timings
 - Dynamics
 - Rubato
 - Phrase





5- The Middle Ages (450-1450)

- Gregorian Chant
- The Church Modes
- Secular Music (Troubadours and Minnesingers)
- Estampie (Thirteenth Century)
- Revolutionary Movement (between 700 and 900): Adding a second melodic line to Gregorian chant
- Organum (between 900 and 1200): The development of Polyphony

5- The Middle Ages (Cont.)

- Cantus firmus
- School of Notre Dame: Measured Rhythm with definite time values
 - Léonin
 - o Pérotin
- Fourteenth-Century Music: (Guillaume de Machaut)
 - Ballade
 - Mass



6 - The Renaissance (1450-1600)

- The period of rebirth or renaissance and exploration of unknowns and Humanism movement
 - o Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)
 - o Vasco da Gama (c. 1460-1524)
 - Ferdinand Magellan (c. 1480-1521)
 - Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)
 - o Martin Luther (1483-1546)
 - o Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1398-1468)
 - o Dante Alighieri (c. 1256-1321)
- Creating a close relationship between words and music
- Choral Music (A Cappella)



6 - The Renaissance (Cont.)

Sacred Music

- Motet
- Mass (Josquin des Prez)
- Mass (Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina)
- Missa Papae Marcelli (1562-1563)

Secular Music (Madrigal)

- o The Venetian School (Giovanni Gabrieli)
 - The Polychoral Motet: Creating the dynamic indications and Specifying the desired instruments by the composer

7- The Baroque Music (1600-1750)

- The times of action and movement (Bernini, Rubens, Rembrandt, Galilei and Newton)
- Characteristics of Baroque Music:
 - Unity of mood
 - o Rhythm
 - o Melody
 - Terraced Dynamics
 - o Texture
 - o Chords and the Basso Continuo
 - Movement



7- The Baroque Music (Cont.)

- The Concerto Grosso
 - o Tutti or Ripieno
 - o Concertino
 - Ritornello form
- Trio Sonatas
- Cantatas
- Oratorios
- Suites

8- The Classical Style (1750-1820)

- The Age of Enlightenment (Voltaire, Diderot, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven)
- Characteristics of the Classical Style:
 - Contrast of Mood
 - Rhythm
 - Texture
 - Melody



8- The Classical Style (Cont.)

- Dynamics and the Piano
- The end of the Basso Continuo
- Sonata form
- Concerto
- Symphony
- Chamber Music



8- The Classical Style (Cont.)

- Minuet and Trio
- Theme and Variations
- Rondo
- Recital
- Requiem
- Libretto
- Recitative
- Aria
- Overture

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