Periods of Musical History

Read the information and have a closer look at the pictures which show you some of the most important composers of the different periods!

Listen to the music!

Then do the worksheet!

Medieval (pre 1500)

- Simple structures
- Little music
- Monophonic
- Simple rhythms based on speech
- Only little music written down
- Music tells about life of simple people
- Music performed by troubadours
- Famous: Gregorian chants concerning religious music

Walter von der Vogelweide, one of the most famous composers of the medieval
**Renaissance (1500 - 1650)**

- Lots of imitation
- Mainly polyphonic
- Contrapuntal music
- Use of modes
- Performed by instruments of the same family

- Orlando di Lasso
- Josquin Desprez

**Baroque (1650-1750)**

- Music full of ornaments and decoration
- Use of dynamic (slow, fast, loud,..)
- Often accompanied by a harpsichord
- Birth period of the modern orchestra

- Antonio Vivaldi
- Johann Sebastian Bach
Classical (1750 - 1810)

- Music has got regular length phrases
- Harmony concentrates around tonic and dominant
- Genres include symphony, concerto, string quartet and opera

Romantic (1810 - 1900)

- More instruments and larger orchestras
- Some music is used to tell stories
- Contrasts in dynamics, instruments and pitch
Modern (1900 - present)

- Complete dissolution of harmony
- Various combinations of instruments
- Composers are more aware of their national heritage

Samuel Barber

Karl Heinz Stockhausen

Krzysztof Penderecki

Now get the “Periods of Musical History” worksheet and do it!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Medieval</th>
<th>Renaissance</th>
<th>Baroque</th>
<th>Classical</th>
<th>Romantic</th>
<th>Modern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What is typical of this period?</strong></td>
<td>(Give at least three things!)</td>
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<td><strong>Who?</strong></td>
<td>(Give at least 2 composers!)</td>
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© Now fill in the missing information in the following grid!