

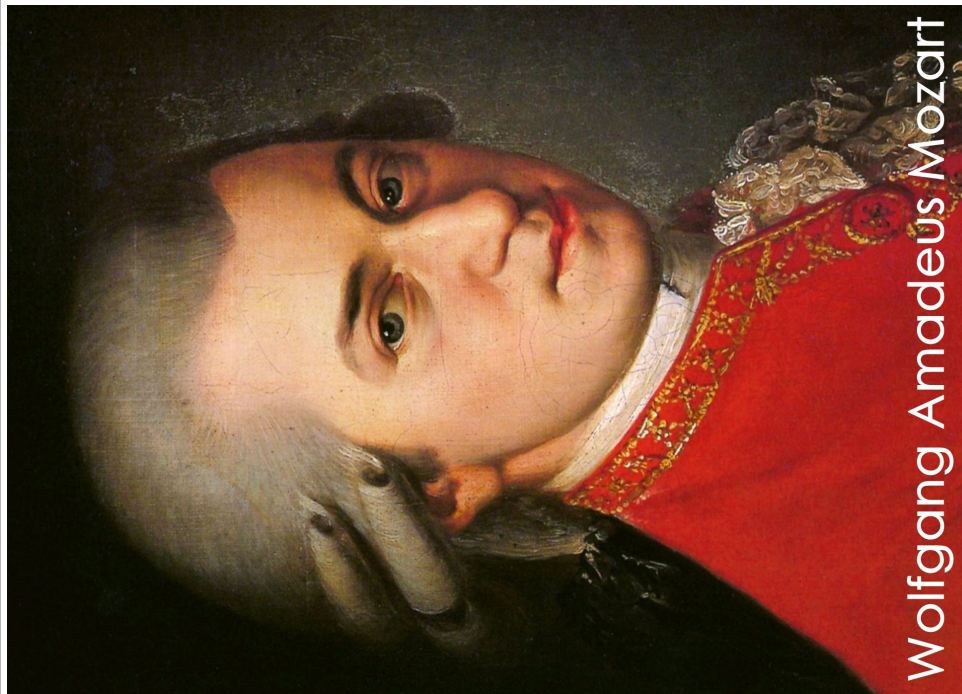


Symphony #101 "The Clock"

This was composed in 1793 or 1794 for a visit the composer made to London. The second movement has a rhythm that sounds like the ticking of a clock. When it was played for the London audience it received rave reviews from the critics and from the public. It is still a very popular piece and frequently performed for concerts.

This composer is known as the "Father of the Symphony" and the "Father of the String Quartet". He is also the one of the earliest of the classical composers.

Other famous works by this composer include *Symphony #94 "Surprise"*, and *Symphony # 103 "The Drum Roll"*



Marriage of Figaro, Overture

This was composed in 1786 in Vienna. It is a comic opera, one of the most produced and still often staged today. The action takes place on a single day. Figaro is to be married to the beautiful Susanna, but the already married count has fallen in love with Susanna and tries to force Figaro to marry a woman old enough to be his mother . . . it turns out she really is his mother and the Count's scheme fails. Figaro and Susanna plot to embarrass the count. Their plot works and the count rediscovers his love for his wife.

Having begun composing at age five, this is perhaps the greatest musician and composer to ever live. He died young of a tragic illness at age 35.

This composer is most famous for his operas which include *The Magic Flute*, and *Don Giovanni*, among others. *Piano Concerto #24* is his greatest piano concerto.



Caprice #24

This was composed between 1805 to 1809 for solo violin. The composer was a master violinist and this is considered one of the most difficult pieces ever composed for the violin.

The composer lived a wild life, suffered from many diseases, most of them brought on by his lifestyle, as well as financial difficulties and depression. He died young.

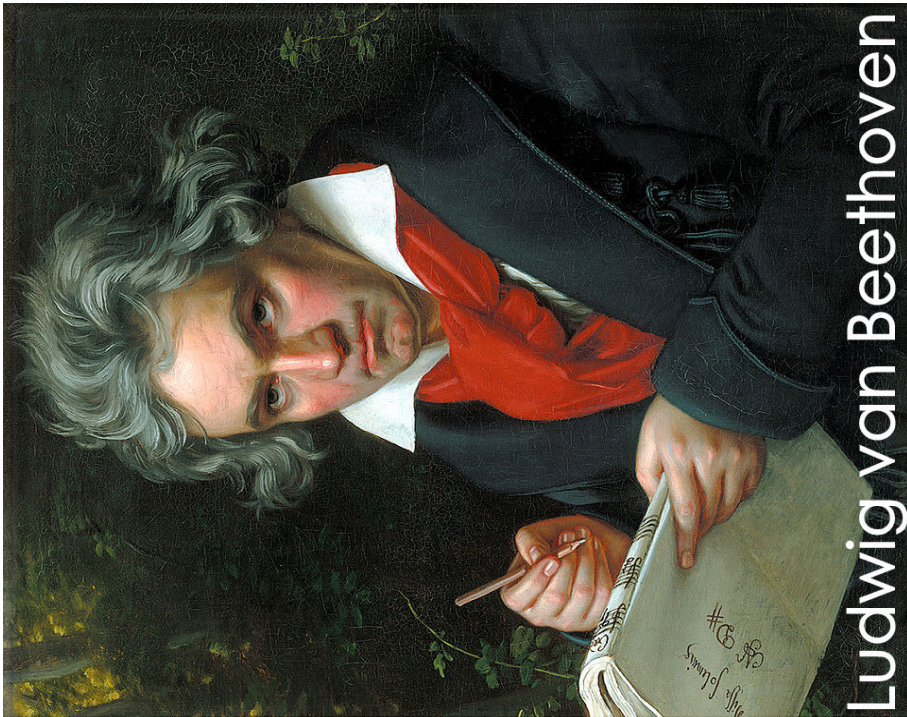
Cantabile is another of his famous pieces.



Orfeo ed Euridice

This was written by one of the earliest classical composers in 1762. It is the story of Orpheus, from the Greek myth. The composer had a desire to reform opera, which he thought had begun to focus too much on the major performers and not enough on the drama of the story line. His reforms and new direction in opera would set the stage for the Classical Period.

This composer wrote 35 full length operas including *Iphigénie en Aulide* and *Armide*, the composer's personal favorite.



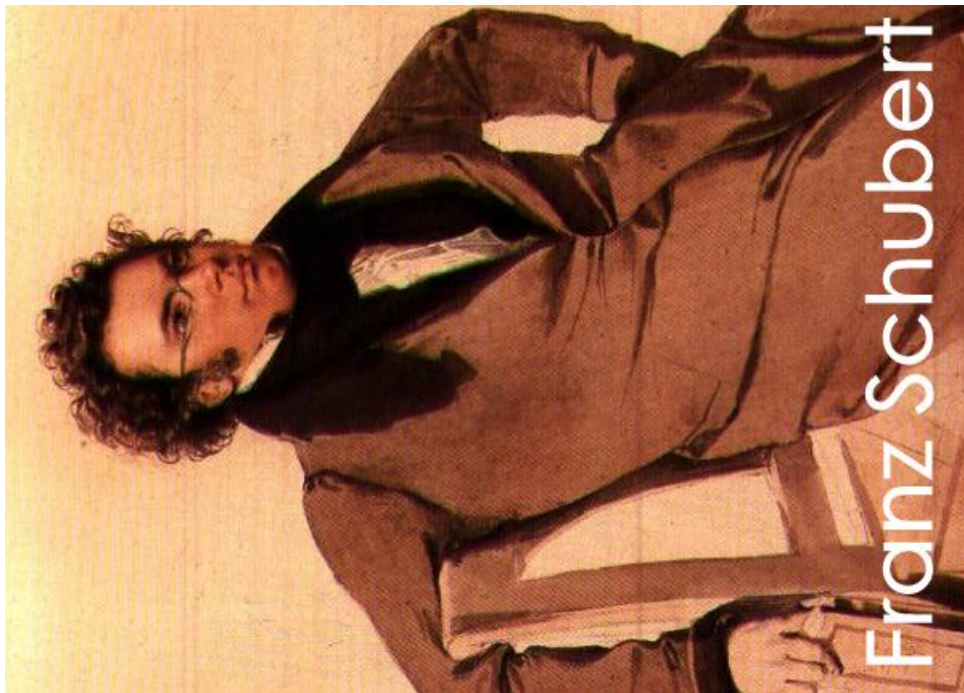
Ludwig van Beethoven

Moonlight Sonata

This was composed in 1801 and dedicated to Countess Giulietta Guicciardi, one of the composers students. It was written for the piano and is meant to be played slowly and gently.

The composer is considered transitional between the Classical era and the Romantic era which followed. He began to lose his hearing in his twenties and by his mid forties he was completely deaf. However he continued to compose, cutting the legs off his piano so he could feel the vibrations on the floor, until his death at age 57.

Other famous pieces include *Symphony #3 "Eroica"*, *Missa Solemnis*, and *Sonata Pathétique*.



Franz Schubert

The Trout

Probably the most famous of this composer's pieces, it was composed in 1819, but not published until after the composers death.

This composer also died young at just 31 years old, poor and unknown to any but a few close friends. During his short life he composed over 600 vocal works, 7 symphonies, operas, chamber music, sacred music, and piano music. He is a transitional composer, leading the way into the Romantic era that followed the Classical.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Symphony #9* and *Winterreise*.

Classical Music Cards

Though all western art music is referred to commonly as “classical” here we are speaking of a specific period which lasted from about 1750 to 1820. This era coincides with the Enlightenment and its hearkening back to Greek and Roman styles, hence “classical”. The music was not composed in Greek or Roman style, but it is more elegant and simpler than the previous Baroque formality and ostentation. Instruments changed too during this period. The harpsichord fell into complete disuse and woodwinds and brass instruments were added to the strings to make the modern symphony. The pianoforte, which has a softer sound and more range than the harpsichord, was perfected and became the common instrument for composers, with sonatas being written exclusively for the piano.

Print these music cards and famous pieces by the composers onto white card stock. Cut the cards out on the solid lines.

Help your kids become familiar with these pieces and composers by playing matching games, sorting the cards, and quizzing over them.

1. Lay the cards face up in front of the students. Play one of the famous compositions for the students to listen to. The music can easily be found online. Have the students match the composer and the composer's famous piece to the music that is playing.
2. After the student can identify the composer and piece, play another famous piece by the composer, listed at the bottom of the card, and see if the student can recognize the style of that composer and identify whose music is being played.