

## **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLASSICAL AND ROMANTIC**

In terms of instruments, they both use full orchestras, but Romantic orchestras are bigger and include a wider range of instruments. They have a larger brass section and much more in the way of percussion than Classical music. Percussion was also used much more to add the sound than in Classical music.

Apart from this it is the sound of the music which gives you the clues. Classical music has nice 'clean' clear melodies supported by pleasant harmonious accompaniments. The melodies are often singable and the harmony predictable. The music sounds satisfying rather than emotional.

Romantic music has sweeping melodies which cover a wide pitch range, are not singable and supported by more orchestral movement. The sound of the music is passionate or emotional, as if the composer is putting his most heartfelt feelings into it.

The best way to learn is to listen to the music – eg listen to lots of Mozart (Classical) and lots of Rachmaninov, late Brahms, and Tchaikovsky. If you do this you will recognise it by sound. The Classical era sees many developments which turned music into its modern day form. Firstly, instruments became fully developed and those such as the clarinet were invented and the orchestra began to take shape in the way we know it today. This is when forms such as Symphony and Concerto became fully formed. The piano was invented and Piano Concertos became an important orchestral form. The famous composers were Haydn at the beginning of the period, then Mozart who greatly developed melody in orchestral writing and finally Beethoven towards the end of the period who really took Classical writing as far as possible, expanding the system of major and minor, using chromatic notes and leading the way for the Romantic period composers.

## **Baroque and Classical**

In Baroque music, in fast pieces, listen out for: lots of semi quaver rhythms, often repeated; repeated patterns; harmonies which sound like the phrase is about to end but then it goes up a tone or semitone and carries on; sequences; major chords at the end of minor pieces. In slow pieces listen for: sequences; lots of suspensions; overlapping notes and rhythms, ornamentation. In all – orchestral music is mainly strings, though there are sometime soloist brass and woodwind parts. If you hear a harpsichord, this is a big giveaway that the music is Baroque.

In Classical music the sound is much more lyrical. The texture of slower music is simpler – a melody and accompaniment, and generally, although it also uses some running passages, it is within the context of a piece containing singable melodies and "nice" sounding accompaniments. Orchestral music consists of strings, brass and woodwind sometimes with timpani and the piano is used instead of the harpsichord.

The best way to tell the difference is to get used to the sound by listening to lots of Baroque and Classical music. Then knowing the difference becomes instinctive.

BAROQUE --contrapuntal, highly ornamented, scale and arpeggio patterns, continuous linear texture, one mood per piece, pedal rarely used, 'joggy' beat

CLASSICAL -- homophonic, balanced phrases, changing moods, scales and broken chord patterns, some ornamentation, fairly even tempo, sparing use of pedal

ROMANTIC -- much wider spread chords with juicier harmonies, mostly homophonic but some inner voices, more obvious emotions, descriptive, sounds like it might have a title, uses more pedal, tempo rubato

MODERN -- large variety of styles, discords or atonal, jazz rhythms, pedal sometimes held for longer passages, tempo rubato.