

PROVENANCE - When (and where) classical music was written

	Baroque (Bach and Handel)	Classical (Mozart, Haydn, early Beethoven)	Romantic (19th century)	Modern (20th century)
Phrase length	regular (four-bar-phrases)	regular	irregular	(i) irregular / fragmented (ii) Neoclassical
Range	Range tends to be confined to the limits of the human voice	Range tends to be confined to the limits of the human voice	at the end of the 19th century melodies began to be unsingable	extremes of the keyboard, sometimes in close proximity
Dynamics and Gradations of Tone	Dynamics tend to be confined between forte and piano. Dynamics are usually terraced, without gradations of tone.	Dynamics tend to be confined between forte and piano, there are gradations of tone.	The range of dynamics becomes more extended; sudden accents	extreme
Tempo Changes	Tends to be at one speed throughout	Tends to be at one speed throughout	Wide use of rubato, and tempo changes	
Mode / Tonality	Tends to be tonic / dominant	Tends to be tonic / dominant	Wider range of chords based on different degrees of the scale. Faster harmonic rhythm.	Chords of the seventh and ninth.
Texture	Imitative counterpoint is typical of the Baroque period.		textures are usually thicker	
Chromatic alterations of notes	rare	Chromatic alteration is rare (except Mozart, who can be very chromatic)	Lots of chromatic alteration.	'Wrong notes'
Consonant/Dissonant	Consonant	Consonant	Consonant	Dissonant
Rhythmic Forms	(i) The circle of fifths (ii) Ground Bass			Jazz
More rhythmic forms	The movements of the Baroque Dance Suite are also typical of the Baroque: Minuet Gavotte Gigue Sarabande (Courante Allemande)		Waltz Polka Mazurka and other national dances	Ragtime Jazzy dances like the Cha Cha and Samba
Other Characteristics	Ornamentation (twiddly bits)	Classical means that the music ideas follow each other in an orderly way, without sudden shocks (there are exceptions!).	Romantic music often tries to express an emotion. It emotes.	
Notes		Here, Classical does not mean as opposed to Pop or Jazz.	Romantic does not mean Romantic, as in trashy love novels.	