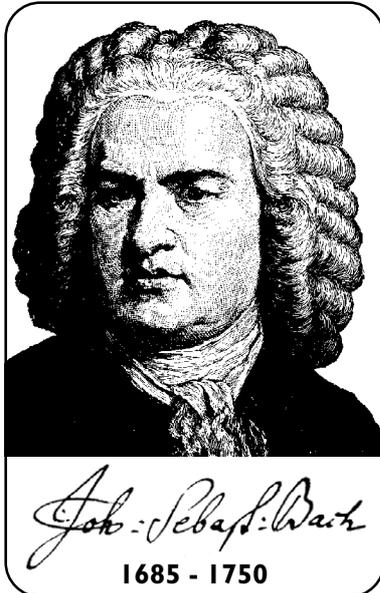


**J. S. BACH: TOCCATA & FUGUE IN D MINOR**

Bach was perhaps the greatest composer for the organ and this piece is one that is instantly recognisable. The Toccata and Fugue in D Minor opens with a dramatic flourish which sounds improvised, as if the organist is testing out the capabilities and sounds of the organ. The music soon starts off again with rising triplet figures played by both hands before the opening is repeated. Again the music sets off with running semi-quavers before finishing with several big chords. Then, in tiptoes the fugue - the little tune that keeps copying and repeating itself, weaving together the strands to finish in blazing, triumphant chords. Even people who think all organ music sounds the same will usually like this piece, with its mixture of exciting flourishes followed by the detailed composition of the fugue.

- **Written:** Circa 1700
- **Title:** Toccata and Fugue in D Minor for organ, BWV565
- **What it is:** Work for organ
- **Length:** 10 minutes
- **Why it's famous:** The dramatic opening; it's the most famous organ piece, usually used for sinister feel in TV films and movies
- **Where you heard it before:** In the movies Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Fantasia and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- **What else is famous:** Goldberg Variations and Air on the G String

The irony is that we have no proof that it is written by Bach! No original manuscript exists and several musical features are way out of keeping with the Baroque Period and other organ music by Bach. We may never know who wrote the organ version, but the best guess is this; someone, possibly Bach, wrote this music for violin and much later, someone else, possibly a pupil of a pupil, rearranged it for organ.

This piece shows the organ off to its best advantage with its fast fingerwork and pedalling and in a large building the sound reverberates around creating a very exciting effect.

**THINGS TO DO**

1. **Write a paragraph detailing Bach's life and famous works. Imagine you had to explain to someone who Bach was. Decide which facts that you think would be most important to include.**
2. **Listen to the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor and see how many times you hear the main theme recur in the fugue?**
3. **See what you can find out about the organ. Use both the library and if possible the Internet. Where is the world's largest organ? How does the organ work?**

**HAYDN: SURPRISE SYMPHONY No. 94**

*Franz Joseph Haydn*  
1732 - 1809

- **Written:** 1791
- **Title:** Symphony No. 94 in G. "Surprise"
- **What it is:** Symphony for orchestra in four movements
- **Length:** 24 minutes (9 + 6 + 5 + 4 = 24)
- **Why it's famous:** The second movement with its surprise loud chord
- **Where you heard it before:** In any radio or TV show on musical humour
- **What else is famous:** The Creation, Trumpet Concerto, the Seasons and the Farewell Symphony No. 45

Haydn loved jokes, but it would be wrong to think that the Surprise Symphony was written purely as one. In the second movement a gentle opening minces along, and is repeated, lulling the audience into a false sense of security then suddenly he injects an abrupt and very loud chord! Was he just making sure people hadn't fallen asleep? No! Haydn was fully aware of his market and knew that audiences demanded novelties from every new symphony. The surprise chord was just that - a sort of gimmick. It had the right effect - Haydn's symphonies were the talk of the town, because behind his special effects was wonderfully written music.

The first movement of the symphony is a lively allegro. The second movement is a good example of musical humour. The violins repeat the opening phrase slightly quieter, making the punch-line loud chord that follows seem even louder. Then, like a deadpan comedian, the rest of the movement goes serenely on with some elegant variations, the loud intruder never returning. Humour is never far away in Haydn's music! The third movement, a cheerful minuet, is a thigh-slapping dance that could have come from the Alps, but never takes itself too seriously. You can almost see the composer winking at you. The final movement is again a fast allegro with a little twist as the music heads to the unusual key of E flat. Soon the music returns back to G and the movement ends with a great flourish using the whole of the orchestra.

A symphony is a work for orchestra usually consisting of four movements. In the Classical period the symphony followed a set pattern of a lively first movement, slower second movement, a minuet and then a lively final movement.

**THINGS TO DO**

**Listen to this symphony and then write a review of it for your local paper. Remember to include details about Haydn as well as about the piece. Then answer the following questions:**

1. How many movements does a symphony usually have?
2. What year was the Surprise Symphony written?
3. What key is the symphony written in overall?

**MOZART: HORN CONCERTO No. 4**

Mozart wrote all four horn concertos for his friend Joseph Leutgeb, an idle old horn player and owner of a cheese shop who took plenty of stick from Mozart for being not exactly the world's smartest guy. He was not the most talented of performers and Mozart used to write comments in the score teasing Leutgeb. In the fourth horn concerto he wrote in several different coloured inks to confuse him. Nevertheless the two men seem to have been good friends and Leutgeb took it all in good part.

Mozart composed his concertos for the natural horn which consists of a long piece of metal tubing coiled round with a mouthpiece one end and a flared bell at the other end. It has no valves (or 'keys' if you prefer), and to get certain notes, the player has to stick his hand up the bell.

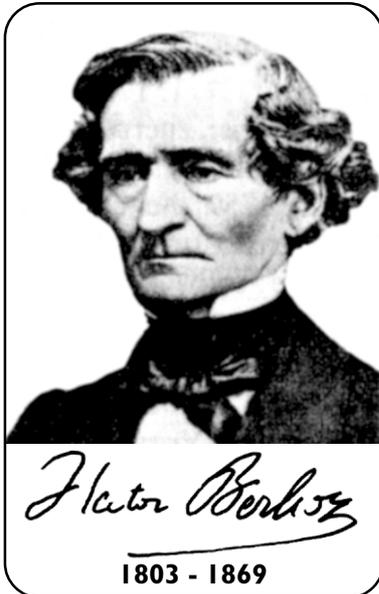
- **Written:** 1786
- **Title:** Concerto for Horn and Strings No. 4 in E flat Major K495
- **What it is:** Concerto for 'French' horn and strings in three movements
- **Length:** 15 minutes (8 + 4 + 3 = 15)
- **Why it's famous:** The hunting-horn finale with that unforgettable tune
- **Where you heard it before:** Lots of TV programmes and Vauxhall Carlton TV ads in the UK
- **What else is famous:** The Marriage of Figaro and the Requiem

The final movement of the concerto is a memorable rondo. The easiest way to think of a rondo is as a kind of musical club sandwich. The opening, Theme A, is the first slice of bread on which to base your sandwich. Theme B would be your first filling followed by another slice of bread (Theme A returning). The next Theme, C, would be a different filling. You then add another slice of bread (Theme A) with finally a garnish to finish the sandwich off. This would be the coda (Theme D). This ABACAD structure is called a rondo, and was the usual structure of a concerto finale in the Classical period which Mozart composed in.

**THINGS TO DO**

**Listen to the movement and see if you can hear the different themes. Can you see how a rondo fits together as a kind of musical club sandwich?**

**Try to compose your own rondo, keep the ideas short and remember to make your main theme (A) easy to remember as it keeps coming back! If you find it hard to make up a melody try working on a rhythm at first and make up a percussion rondo before trying to add a tune.**

**LOUIS-HECTOR BERLIOZ****FASCINATING FACTS**

- Berlioz became notorious at concerts in Paris as a young man for hurling insults at conductors who didn't perform the music as he felt it should be performed.
- Berlioz decided to give up medicine after his first dissection class!
- Berlioz also worked as a music critic and was very damning in his opinions of other composers' work! Equally he himself was not very popular at times.
- Berlioz was famous for using huge orchestras and choruses often using several hundred people.

**1803** Hector Berlioz was born in Cote St. Andre near Grenoble, France

**1821** Berlioz moved to Paris to train as a doctor but soon left to study music

**1826** Berlioz entered the Paris Conservatoire

**1827** Berlioz saw the actress Harriet Smithson in a play and fell in love with her

**1830** Saw the first performance of the *Symphonie Fantastique* one of his most well known works and Berlioz also won the Prix de Rome with the piece *Sardanapalus*

**1833** Berlioz married Harriet Smithson

**1834** *Harold in Italy* was first performed

**1837** *The Requiem or Grand Mass for the Dead* was premiered

**1842** Berlioz separated from his wife Harriet Smithson

**1848** Berlioz began a conducting season in London and began composition on his opera *the Damnation of Faust*

**1849** *The Te Deum* was first performed

**1854** Harriet Smithson died and *L'Enfance du Christ* was premiered

**1855** Berlioz conducted his third season in London

**1869** Berlioz died in Paris aged 65

**THINGS TO DO**

**Now answer the questions on a separate sheet:**

1. When and where was Berlioz born?
2. What year was the first performance of *Harold in Italy*?
3. What year did Berlioz win the Prix de Rome?
4. Who was Harriet Smithson?
5. Which country was Berlioz visiting when he started work on the opera *the Damnation of Faust*?
6. How old was Berlioz when he died?
7. What profession did Berlioz start to train for but gave up for music?
8. Which music conservatory did Berlioz study at?
9. How old was Berlioz when he wrote the *Symphonie Fantastique*?
10. What year did Berlioz marry Harriet Smithson?

**RICHARD WAGNER**

- 1813** Wagner was born in Leipzig, Germany
- 1832** Wagner's 1st Symphony in C Major was performed in Prague
- 1833** Wagner became the chorus master at Würzburg
- 1836** Wagner married Minna Planer
- 1837-39** Wagner lived in Riga but fled to avoid arrest for debt - first to England and then Paris
- 1843** The opera The Flying Dutchman was first performed
- 1845** The opera Tannhäuser premiered
- 1849** Wagner was forced to flee to Switzerland after a revolution
- 1850** Liszt performed the opera Lohengrin at Weimar in Germany
- 1854** Wagner completed the first section of The Ring Cycle (Das Rheingold)
- 1855** Visited London to a mixed reception but Queen Victoria attended his concert
- 1856** Wagner finished the second section of The Ring Cycle (Die Walküre)
- 1859** Wagner completed Tristan and Isolde
- 1864** Ludwig II of Bavaria settled Wagner's debts and he moved to Munich

**FASCINATING FACTS**

- Wagner spent several weeks in a debtor's prison in France.
- The whole Ring Cycle usually takes over a week to perform! If it ran continuously it would still take more than twenty-four hours and everyone would be asleep!

- 1870** Wagner married Cosima von Bülow after the birth of his son Siegfried
- 1871** Completed the third part of The Ring Cycle (Siegfried)
- 1872** He moved to Bayreuth where the Festival Theatre was being built
- 1874** Completed the final part of The Ring Cycle (Götterdämmerung)
- 1876** The complete Ring Cycle premiered at Bayreuth
- 1883** Wagner died in Venice from a heart attack on the 13th February

**THINGS TO DO**

**Write a paragraph detailing Wagner's life. Try to find pictures to add to your report using either the Internet or the library.**

**Now answer the questions on a separate sheet:**

1. Where was Wagner born and in what year?
2. Where did Wagner flee in 1849 and why?
3. Who did Wagner marry in 1836?
4. What was the name of Wagner's opera performed in 1843?
5. What is the name of Wagner's famous series of operas that include Die Walküre?
6. Which Queen attended one of Wagner's concerts in 1855?
7. In 1864 who settled Wagner's debts?
8. What was built in Bayreuth in 1872?
9. Who was Wagner's second wife?
10. Where and when did Wagner die?