Bowed stringed instruments

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Piano keyboard

7 ½ octaves, 88 keys spanning A1 – C8. “Middle C” is C4.
A4 pitch (frequency) is 440 Hz.
Bowed instruments

The violin matured earlier than the piano: Antonio Stradivari (1644 – 1737) set a standard of excellence which is still unsurpassed. Lowest note: G3.

Here’s a 1721 Stradivarius (“Lady Blunt”), which sold for $15.9 million in 2011.

Note the absence of a chin rest. (Those came later.)

Cello

Bass viol da gamba (17th century) was smaller than the modern cello.

The lowest note on the cello is C2, about an octave and a half below the lowest note on a violin.


Jacqueline Du Pré, Elgar Cello Concerto

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUgdbqt2ONo
Other strings

The viola is a bit larger than the violin, and goes a bit lower: down to C₃ (an octave below middle C), compared to a violin’s G₃.

The double bass goes all the way down to A₁, about two octaves lower than a violin.


Walton Viola Concerto

Roberto Diaz, viola

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhsOS5xGqPw
The music
The Baroque period (c. 1600 – 1750)

Some of the composers:

• Claudio Monteverdi, 1567 – 1643. Lived in Venice, Italy; his 1607 opera *L’Orfeo* is “widely acknowledged as the first great work in the history of the genre.” [18]

• Antonio Vivaldi, 1678 – 1741. His most famous composition is probably *The Four Seasons*, comprising four of the twelve Opus 8 concerti.

• Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 – 1750. He didn’t do opera, but was the champion of everything else during the Baroque era. Bach was enormously prolific.
The Classical period (c. 1750 – 1820)

New forms of composition, including: the symphony and string quartet. The works are more layered, more complex. Some of the composers:

• Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732 – 1809. Vienna; he is “rightly regarded as the father of both the symphony and the string quartet.” [18]

• Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756 – 1791. “Music’s supremely gifted creator, whose achievements mark a zenith of Western culture.” [18] Also, “the only composer in history to have written undisputed masterworks in virtually every musical genre of his age.” [23]

• Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770 – 1827. “The most important and influential musician in history.” [18] His revolutionary works forced the transition from the Classical to the Romantic period; he composed works in the style of both periods.
The Romantic period (c. 1820 – 1900)

Dramatic changes to the form of the symphony and the string quartet. A few of the composers (in addition to Beethoven):

- Johannes Brahms, 1833 – 1897. I think: Brahms makes immediate, powerful emotional statements in the opening notes of his orchestral and chamber works.


- Felix Mendelssohn, 1809 – 1847. Boy genius: her wrote his Overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream at the age of 17.
Twentieth century

The twentieth century was a time of global war, genocide, and environmental destruction. It was also the century in which political freedom and human rights became the norm in most of Europe. The music of that/this century is complex, sometimes dissonant, unsettled, forceful.

There is an impressive range of styles; I do not know if they all have names.

- Impressionism: Claude Debussy, 1862 – 1918; Maurice Ravel, 1875 – 1937.
- Sergey Prokofiev, 1891 – 1953; Dmitri Shostakovich, 1906 – 1975, both Russian.
Sunday’s concert
Christine Lamprea (cello) and Andrea Lam (piano)
Sunday Salon concert: January 31, 3:00 pm

Get there early: there are snacks and champagne, starting around 2:30!

Leoš Janáček (Czech, 1854 – 1928)

*Pohádka (Fairy Tale)*

Ludwig van Beethoven (German, 1770 – 1827)

*Sonata for Piano & Cello in A Major, Op. 69*

Jeffrey Mumford (USA, b. 1955)

*Amid Fleeting Pockets of Billowing Radiance*

Sergei Rachmaninoff (Russia ➔ USA, 1873 – 1943)

*Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19*
Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax do the Beethoven

https://youtu.be/X9pivx91mVk?t=9s
References (1)


References (2)

[34] http://jupiterquartet.com/about/