

MUSIC · GRADES 4–6

# Music History Through 7 Eras

From medieval chant to modern beats

## The seven eras

Era	When	Famous composer
Medieval	500–1400	Hildegard of Bingen
Renaissance	1400–1600	Thomas Tallis, Josquin des Prez
Baroque	1600–1750	Bach, Vivaldi, Handel
Classical	1750–1820	Mozart, Haydn, early Beethoven
Romantic	1820–1900	Beethoven (later), Chopin, Tchaikovsky
20th Century	1900–2000	Stravinsky, Gershwin, Shostakovich
Today	2000–now	Ludovico Einaudi, Hans Zimmer, Hildur Guðnadóttir

## What to listen for

<p><b>Medieval &amp; Renaissance</b></p> <p>Chant — single voices in unison. Religious music in cathedrals. Recorder, lute, viol. Pure, peaceful sound.</p>	<p><b>Baroque</b></p> <p>Lots of decoration, fast notes, mathematical patterns. Harpsichord. Bach's fugues, Vivaldi's Four Seasons.</p>
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<p><b>Classical</b></p> <p>Clear, balanced, tuneful. Symphony orchestra develops. Mozart's piano concertos, Haydn's symphonies.</p>	<p><b>Romantic</b></p> <p>Big emotions, big orchestras. Stories told through music. Tchaikovsky's ballets, Chopin's piano nocturnes.</p>
<p><b>20th Century</b></p> <p>Everything explodes — jazz, rock, atonal classical, film music. Music for any mood, any place. Recording technology changes everything.</p>	<p><b>Today</b></p> <p>Boundaries blur. Classical, electronic, world music mix freely. Streaming means any music is one click away.</p>

## A 7-era listening playlist

Pick one piece from each era for a class listening session. Suggestions: • Medieval: Hildegard's 'O Vis Aeternitatis' • Renaissance: Tallis's 'If Ye Love Me' • Baroque: Vivaldi's 'Spring' (Four Seasons) • Classical: Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik' • Romantic: Tchaikovsky's '1812 Overture' • 20th Century: Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' • Today: Einaudi's 'Nuvole Bianche' For each, ask: How does this make you FEEL? What INSTRUMENTS can you hear? What kind of place might play this?

