

History of Music Timeline

1473 - the first printed sheet music is created.

1580 - the popular song 'Greensleeves' is composed.



1742 - Handel composes Messiah, his most famous piece.

1732 - the Theatre Royal (now the Royal Opera House) opened in London.

1764 - Mozart writes his first symphony aged 8.

1791 - the waltz becomes fashionable in England.



1801 - Beethoven composes 'Moonlight Sonata'.

1818 - Francis Johnson became the first African American to have a composition published as sheet music.

1887 - Florence Price was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. She would later become the first famous female African American composer of orchestral music.



1840 - the saxophone is invented by Adolphe Sax.

1873 - Tchaikovsky composes Swan Lake.

1904 - The London Symphony Orchestra is established.

1906 - the first transmission of music is heard by radio in Austria.

1940 - Duke Ellington composes the song, 'Ka-Ko'.



1922 - Fats Waller makes his recording debut for Okeh Records.

1931 - the electric guitar is invented.

1962 - The Beatles release their first single, 'Love Me Do'.

1972 - Stevie Wonder releases his single, 'Superstition'.

1981 - Bob Marley, pioneer of reggae music, dies of cancer at 36 years old.

1982 - Michael Jackson releases Thriller, which sells more than 25 million copies.

1982 - the first Compact Discs (CDs) go on sale.

1997 - the first digital single, 'Electric Barbarella' by Duran Duran, is released for sale on the internet.

2004 - Prince is introduced into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

2018 - Aretha Franklin, known as the Queen of Soul, dies aged 76.

Renaissance 1400 - 1600

Baroque 1600 - 1750

Classical 1750 - 1820

Romantic 1820 - 1900

Modern 1890 - 1960

Contemporary 1960 - Present

1555 - the modern style violin is invented.



1723 - Vivaldi composes the Four Seasons.

c.1778 - 1780 - George Bridgetower is born in Poland, to an Eastern European mother and West Indian father.



1788 - Auld Lang Syne is written by Robert Burns.

1799 - Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a renowned violinist, composer and conductor dies in Paris.

1822 - The Royal Academy of Music in London is founded.

1871 - the Royal Albert Hall in London is opened.



1899 - Scott Joplin wrote his most famous piece, 'Maple Leaf Rag'.

1910 - jazz becomes popular in the USA.

1914 - Gustav Holst composes 'The Planets'.

1935 - Elvis Presley is born.

1979 - Sony introduces the first Walkman.

1990 - George Walker is the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music.

2020 - Billie Eilish wins four Grammy awards aged 18, the youngest artist to be nominated for and win all four major categories.

