

CLASSICAL GENRES

A Guide to All Those Latin-ish Terms

OBSOLETE GENRES

- Concerto grosso
 - Solo concerto flourished in the Classical, however
- Suite

UNDERSTANDING GENRE

- **Form**

- The number of movements and their type

- **Instrumentation**

- Who plays it

- **Venue**

- Where it is, and what it's for

FORM: THE BASIC LAYOUT

- First Movement: Sonata-Allegro Form
- Second Movement: Variations, or Aria-like 3-part form
- Third Movement: Minuet & Trio
- Fourth Movement: Sonata-Allegro Form, or Rondo

SYMPHONY

- Form
 - Standard four movements
- Instrumentation
 - Full orchestra
- Venue
 - Concert hall, as kingpin of a concert

STRING QUARTET

- Form
 - Standard four movements
- Instrumentation
 - Quartet: 2 violins, viola, 'cello
- Venue
 - Salon, home, recital hall -- intimate and sophisticated

SONATA

- Form
 - Standard four movements, sometimes varied
- Instrumentation
 - Solo instrument, sometimes with accompaniment
- Venue
 - Salon, home, recital hall -- intimate

CHAMBER GENRES

- Duo
- Trio
- Quartet
- Quintet
- Sextet
- Septet
- Octet

WITH PIANO

- Piano Trio: piano, violin, cello in the usual 4-movements
- Piano Quartet: piano, violin, viola, cello, 4 movements
- Piano Quintet: piano + string quartet

CONCERTO

- Form
 - Three movements: no Minuet & Trio
- Instrumentation
 - Solo instrument + orchestra
- Venue
 - Concert hall, as a showpiece for a soloist

OPERA

- Form
 - Theatrical: acts and scenes
- Instrumentation
 - Singers, chorus, orchestra
- Venue
 - Opera house, grand public entertainment

SACRED MUSIC

- Same as Baroque
 - Oratorios, cantatas, masses, anthems, motets, etc.