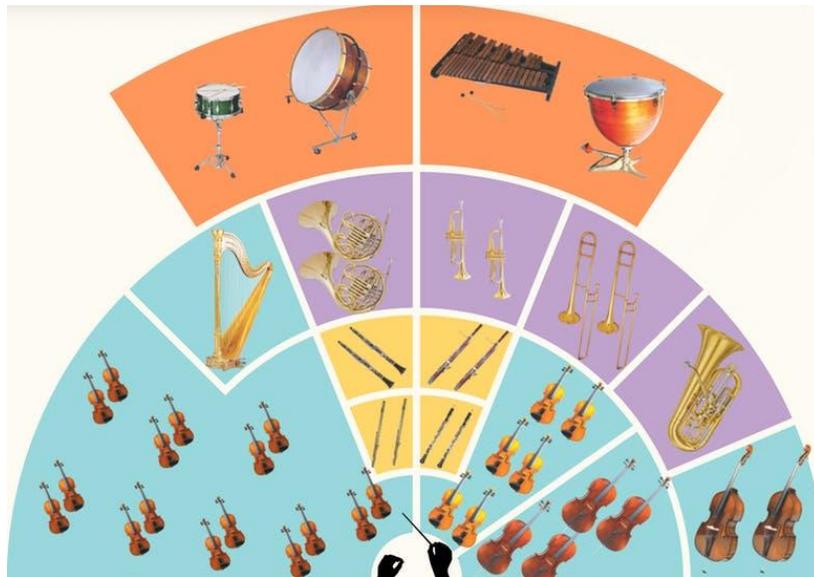


Mozart and Beethoven!

Lensic Performing Arts Center
The Santa Fe Pro Musica Orchestra
Benjamin Hochman, conductor and piano
Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Here you will find interesting information that supplements the Santa Fe Pro Musica **Mozart and Beethoven!** Youth Concert video. On this concert you will hear the Pro Musica Orchestra playing an overture and a concerto by Mozart, and a symphony by Beethoven.



DEFINITIONS

An **orchestra** is a large group of musicians that come together to play music. Orchestras vary in size from a dozen players to a hundred players. Orchestras are built from families of musical instruments.

- The largest musical instrument family is the **string family** and includes violins, violas, cellos, basses, and the harp.
- The wind instruments make up two related families
 - The **woodwinds** (flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons)
 - And the **brass instruments** (horns, trumpets, trombones, tuba)

- Another family contains the **percussion instruments**, which include all the instruments that are struck with the hand or with a mallet: timpani, drums, cymbals, bells, and even the piano.
- There is one more important person in the orchestra, and this is the **conductor**. With so many people playing music, it's important for one person to be in charge of starting and stopping the group and setting the right tempos (how fast or how slow?).

The **overture** originated in the 1600s as an instrumental introduction to an opera or ballet. Its purpose was to alert the audience that the show was about to begin. It is short in duration, usually under 10 minutes.

A **concerto** is an instrumental work written for one or several soloists and an orchestra. For our September concert, the soloists are two pianists who will be accompanied by an orchestra. The main idea of a concerto is that it's a conversation (or argument!) between the soloists and the orchestra. It is often written in three movements or chapters, with each movement presenting a different viewpoint, and lasts from 15 to 45 minutes.

A **symphony** is a large work written just for an orchestra. Like the concerto, a symphony is usually in three or four movements, and is from 15 to 45 minutes long.

Classical music is a type of music that is always written down. This lets the composer develop multiple musical ideas over long durations of time. Folk or pop or rock music comes from traditions where the music is usually not written down, but learned by ear. The duration of this kind of music is much shorter.

The **Classical Period** of music (not to be confused with "classical music") refers to the years 1750–1820 when the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn was all the rage in Europe.

MEET THE COMPOSERS



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) was a touring star on keyboards when he was just 6 years old and a famous composer by the time he was a teenager. He is still the most popular classical music composer in the world today. Mozart's music is dramatic and entertaining.



If Mozart is the most popular classical musician on the charts today, then **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770–1827) comes in a close second. They both lived in Vienna, the cultural capital of Europe. Beethoven’s music is longer and generally more intensely dramatic than Mozart’s. Beethoven tended to shake his fist at the world while Mozart preferred to dance with it.

BE A COMPOSER!

During Mozart’s time there was a game that was all the rage, called the **Musical Dice Game** (or *Musikalisches Würfelspiel* in German, try saying that!). Composers, including Mozart, created charts with multiple columns that contained dozens of musical snippets. Anyone could “write” music just by rolling some dice and referring to the chart. The first numbers on the dice correspond to one of the musical snippets in the first column. Then the dice are rolled again and a snippet is selected from the second column. Continue until all 16 snippets (one in each column) are selected. A simple piece of music is commonly made from four groups of four snippets (or 16 snippets altogether). Here is a website that lets you play the game (without the dice). Have fun!

<http://www.playonlinedicegames.com/mozart>