



The word **symphony** comes from the Greek words "sym" (together) and "phone" (sound).



Symphonic means like a **symphony**. It is often used to describe music which is quite long and develops melodies over a long period.



THE SYMPHONY

Haydn wrote at least **107** symphonies over the course of 36 years.

While most symphonies have four movements, Alan Hovhannes's *Symphony No. 9, Saint Vartan* is in twenty-four.

Symphonies, as we know them today, were first composed during the Classical period, which was around 1740-1820.

Famous symphonies include Dvořák's *Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"*, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 "The Eroica Symphony"*.

Vaughan Williams' *Pastoral Symphony* was inspired by a World War I bugler who played a wrong note. The event is mimicked in the trumpet cadenza in the second movement.

Joseph Haydn is known as the "Father of the Symphony".



At the premiere of his Choral Symphony, an almost completely deaf Beethoven didn't realise the orchestra had finished before him and carried on conducting until a singer turned him around to see the audience applauding.

The first movement of a symphony is normally written in sonata form, meaning it has three main sections: an exposition, a development, and a recapitulation.



The world record for the longest symphony is held by Havergal Brian, whose *Symphony No. 2 "The Gothic"*, lasted an hour and 39 minutes in a recording broadcast by the BBC in 1954.

With a duration of 17 seconds, Michael Wolters' *Spring Symphony: The Joy of Life* is the world's shortest symphony.

