

# **The culture of the United Kingdom**



- \* The **culture of the United Kingdom** refers to the patterns of human activity and symbolism associated with the United Kingdom and its people. It is informed by the UK's history as a developed island country, major power, and its composition of four countries—England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales—each of which have preserved distinct customs, cultures and symbolism.



If you are planning to visit London, then the most interesting place to see is the British Museum. The British Museum displays a wealth of British art masterpieces which include some of the famous antiquities and documents that are related to British history. The four most well known masterpieces that attract the world are: the Rosetta Stone, The Elgin Marbles, the Great Court and the Egyptian Galleries.

- \* Britain's most frequently visited museum is the British Museum in London founded in 1753 and is especially famous for its collection of antiquities and as the home, until the early 1990s, of the British Library.



\* The oldest museum is the Ashmolean in Oxford founded in 1683. It has collections of ancient history, fine art and archaeology.



- \* Many of the most important specialist museums are in London. They include the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of London, the Imperial War Museum, the London Transport Museum, the Museum of the Moving Image.



*\* Important art collections are the National Gallery, the National Portrait gallery, the Tate Gallery.*

# Architecture of the United Kingdom





- \* *The variety of architecture to be seen in Britain provides a record for the nation's history.*
- \* *The most important prehistoric monument in Britain is the stone circle at Stonehenge which was completed during the Bronze Age.*





- \* The [architecture of the United Kingdom](#) includes many features that precede the creation of the United Kingdom in 1707, from as early as [Skara Brae](#) and [Stonehenge](#) to the [Giant's Ring](#), [Avebury](#) and [Roman ruins](#). In most [towns](#) and [villages](#) the [parish church](#) is an indication of the age of the settlement. Many [castles](#) remain from the [medieval](#) period such as; [Windsor Castle](#) (longest-occupied castle in Europe), [Stirling Castle](#) (one of the largest and most important in Scotland), [Bodiam Castle](#) ([moated](#) castle), and [Warwick Castle](#). Over the two centuries following the [Norman conquest of England](#) of 1066, and the building of the [Tower of London](#), castles such as [Caernarfon Castle](#) in [Wales](#) and [Carrickfergus Castle](#) in Ireland were built.

The architecture of the United Kingdom consists of an eclectic combination of architectural styles, ranging from those that predate the creation of the United Kingdom.

A listed building is a building or other structure decreed as being of special architectural, historical or cultural significance.



Within the United Kingdom are the ruins of prehistoric structures and ancient neolithic settlements. The architecture of ancient Rome penetrated Roman Britain with "elegant villas, carefully planned towns and engineering marvels like Hadrian's Wall".



Castle Howard is a stately home in North Yorkshire, England, 15 miles (24 km) north of York. One of the grandest private residences in Britain. Castle Howard has been the home of part of the Howard family for more than 300 years. Today, it is part of the Treasure Houses of England heritage group.



The Palace of Westminster, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, houses the Parliament of the United Kingdom. A collaboration in the Perpendicular Gothic style between Augustus Welby Pugin and Sir Charles Barry, it is described by Linda Colley as "the building that most enshrines Britain's national and imperial pre-tensions"





\* Westminster Abbey

St Paul's Cathedral is a Church of England cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London and mother church of the Diocese of London. It sits at the top of Ludgate Hill, the highest point in the City of London. In terms of area, St Paul's is the second largest church building in the United Kingdom after Liverpool Cathedral.



Belfast City Hall is the civic building of the Belfast City Council. The site now occupied by Belfast City Hall was once the home of the White Linen Hall, an important international Linen Exchange. The exterior is built mainly from Portland stone and is in the Baroque Revival style. It covers an area of one and a half acres and has an enclosed courtyard.





## Castle Stalker

The island castle's picturesque appearance, with its bewitching island setting against a dramatic backdrop of mountains, has made it a favourite subject for postcards and calendars, and something of a cliché image of Scottish Highland scenery. Castle Stalker is entirely authentic; it is one of the best-preserved medieval tower-houses surviving in western Scotland.



The New Town is a central area of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. It is often considered to be a masterpiece of city planning, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The New Town is home to the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy, located on The Mound.



Blackwall is an area of the East End of London, situated in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the north bank of the Thames River.

Blackwall is said to have got its name from the colour of the embankment wall constructed along the north side of the Thames during the 18th century.



The Victoria and Albert Museum is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects. Its collection spans 5,000 years of art, from ancient times to the present day, from the cultures of Europe, North America, Asia and North Africa.



Blenheim Palace is a monumental country house situated in Woodstock residence of the dukes of Marlborough. Its construction was originally intended to be a gift to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, from a grateful nation in return for military triumph against the French and Bavarians at the Battle of Blenheim.



The London Eye is a giant Ferris wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames in London. Also known as the Millennium Wheel, its official name was originally the British Airways London Eye.





\* Big Ben at dusk, with the London Eye giving a panoramic view of the city

Tower Bridge (built 1886–1894) is a combined bascule and suspension bridge in London which crosses the River Thames. It is close to the Tower of London, from which it takes its name, and has become an iconic symbol of London.





Canary Wharf is a major business district located in Tower Hamlets, London. It is one of London's two main financial centres – along with the traditional City of London – and contains many of the UK's tallest buildings, including the second-tallest, One Canada Square.



The Albert Dock is a complex of dock buildings and warehouses in Liverpool. Designed by Jesse Hartley and Philip Hardwick, it was opened in 1846, and was the first structure in Britain to be built from cast iron, brick and stone, with no structural wood. As a result, it was the first non-combustible warehouse system in the world.



# Others...





\* St. Paul's Cathedral, English Baroque architecture and a Red telephone box

# The History of the Red British Phone Boxes





- \* Apart from these early remains, it is the castles, churches, cathedrals and country houses of Britain that represent the architectural heritage of the country and attract tourists.*



*\* English customs and traditions, first of all, concerns United Kingdom political system. In Great Britain there is no written constitution, only customs, traditions and precedents.*



*\* Traditionally the Queen acts only on the advice of her Ministers. She reigns but she does not rule.*





- \* Englishmen have traditions not only in political, but in social life. For example, London, the capital of England, is traditionally divided into three parts: the West End, the East end, and the City. The City is a historical, financial and business center of London. The East End is the district inhabited by the workers, and the West End is a fashionable shopping and entertaining center.



- \* English people like to spend their free time in numerous pubs where they can have a glass of beer and talk about different things with their friends.



- \* *The British have been known as unsociable, snobbish, hypocritical and aloof. The British think that their important national values are tolerance, decency, moderation, consensus. They pride themselves on fair play and a genius for compromise. As seen by outsiders qualities of the typical British also include reserve and modesty, politeness and helpfulness.*



- \* The British people are great lovers of gardens, dogs and horses. One of the most striking aspects of the national character is the love of the countryside. English people have many times been described as a nation of flower – growers.



\* They are also great lovers of sports. The most popular sports are football, golf, cricket, rugby, hockey, horse racing, rowing etc.



\* The British people are the world's greatest tea drinkers. The English are traditional about their meals. They eat eggs and bacon with toasts for breakfast, pudding or apple pie for dessert. Every English family has five o'clock tea.



- \* A typical feature of an English house is a fireplace, even when there is central heating in the house.



- \* Englishmen have many traditional holidays. There are only six public holidays a year in Great Britain. They are : Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter, May Day Bank Holiday , Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday.





- \* Besides public holidays, there are other festivals, anniversaries and celebration days on which certain traditions are observed, but unless they fall on a Sunday, they are ordinary working days. They are : Hogmanay, St.Valentine's day, Pancake Day, April Fool's day, Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes' Night, Remembrance or Poppy Day, Hallowe'n and many others including Royal ascot – the biggest horse race, the Proms – a series of classical music concerts, the London Marathon, harvest Festival, Dog Shows and so on. Some English customs and traditions are famous all over the world. Bowler hats, tea and talking about the weather, for example. From Scotland to Cornwall, the United Kingdom is full of customs and tradition.



- \* Much of the folklore of the United Kingdom pre-dates the UK. Though some of the characters and stories are present across Britain, most belong to specific countries or regions. Common folkloric beings include [pixies](#), [giants](#), [elves](#), [bogeymen](#), [trolls](#), [goblins](#) and [dwarves](#). While many legends and folk-customs are thought to be ancient, for instance the tales featuring [Offa of Angeln](#) and [Weyland Smith](#),<sup>[109]</sup> others date from after the Norman invasion; [Robin Hood](#) and his [Merry Men](#) of [Sherwood](#) and their battles with the [Sheriff of Nottingham](#) being, perhaps, the best known



\* The UK has had a large impact on modern **cinema**, producing some of the greatest actors, directors and motion pictures of all time including.

[Charlie Chaplin](#)



- \* From its formation in 1707, the United Kingdom has had a vibrant tradition of theatre, much of it inherited from England and Scotland. The West End is the main theatre district in the UK, which is located in the West End of London. The West End's Theatre Royal in Covent Garden in the City of Westminster dates back to the mid 17th century, making it the oldest London theatre.

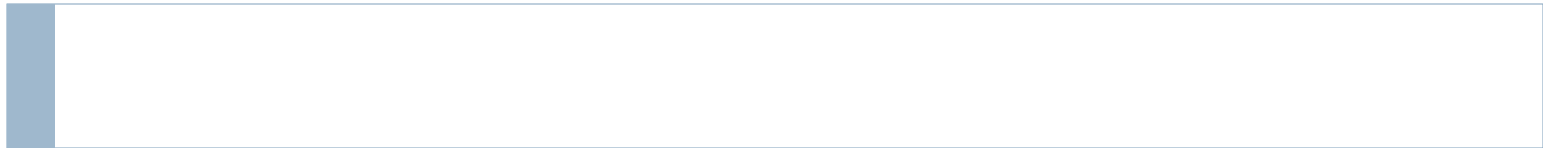


- \* The United Kingdom was created as an Anglican Christian country and Anglican churches remain the largest faith group in each country of the UK. Following this is Roman Catholicism and religions including Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, and Buddhism. Today British Jews number around 300 000 with the UK having the fifth largest Jewish community worldwide. While 2001 census information suggests that over 75 percent of UK citizens consider themselves to belong to a religion, Gallup International reports that only 10 percent of UK citizens regularly attend religious services. A 2004 YouGov poll found that 44 percent of UK citizens believe in God, while 35 percent do not.



\* English language is the official language of the UK, and is spoken monolingually by an estimated 95% of the British population

# **BRITISH LITERATURE: FAMOUS FACES**



# William Shakespeare

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- ▶ William Shakespeare (1564—April 23, 1616, Stratford-upon-Avon) English poet, dramatist, and actor, often called the English national poet and considered by many to be the greatest dramatist of all time.





# Walter Scott

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- ▶ Scott, Sir Walter, 1771-1832, Scottish novelist and poet, b. Edinburgh. He is considered the father of both the regional and the historical novel.



# Charles Dickens

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- ▶ The most famous author of Victorian era is Charles Dickens (1812-1870). His aim was to touch peoples' hearts with sight of suffering, but he didn't want to awaken hatred or call for popular uprising.



# Oscar Wilde

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- ▶ Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), judge of beauty and humour, was an Irish writer and poet. His mannered, dramatic and critical genius, his conversation, and his personal life have become the subject of legend. He is still one of the best-known British writers on the Continent.



# Agatha Christie

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- ▶ Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976) was a British crime writer of novels, short stories, and plays. Her detective stories are exciting and her sense of humour charms readers – this is secret of her such a big popularity.



# Joanne Katheline Rowling

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- ▶ Joanne Rowling (1965), English writer, author of novels about Harry Potter, which were translated into 65 languages and sold in number of 400 million copies. It is not known, if her works stays in history equally the greatest writers, but she has already left her trace in history and it's undoubtedly.
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# *British Painting*





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**Lais of Corinth, Hans Holbein the Younger**



**Portrait of Henry VIII - portrait after Hans Holbein the Younger (1497/8-1543)**





Henry VIII and the Barber Surgeons  
c. 1543



Charles I (1600-49) in three positions (1635)



Lady in Blue

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*Anthony Van Dyck*



**The Marriage Contract,  
1743**



**Mary Edwards**



**Election**

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**William Hogarth**



## The Harlot's Progress

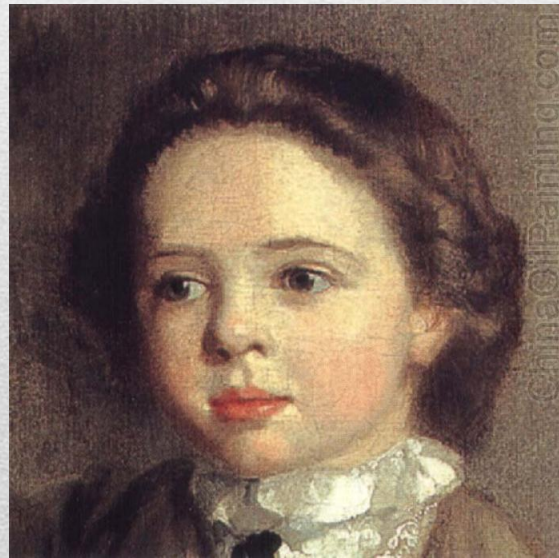
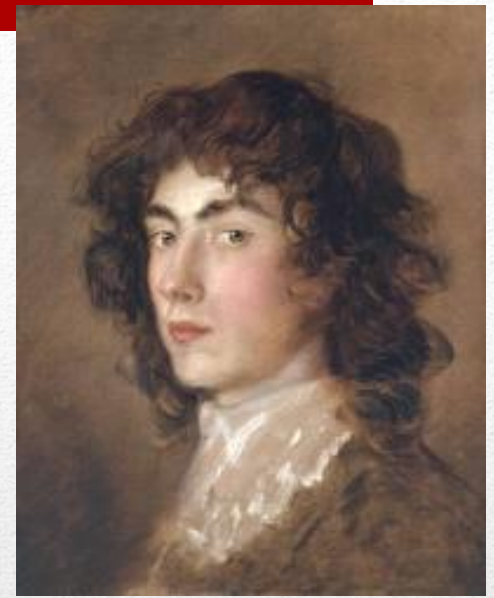


## The Rake's Progress



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**Joshua Reynolds**



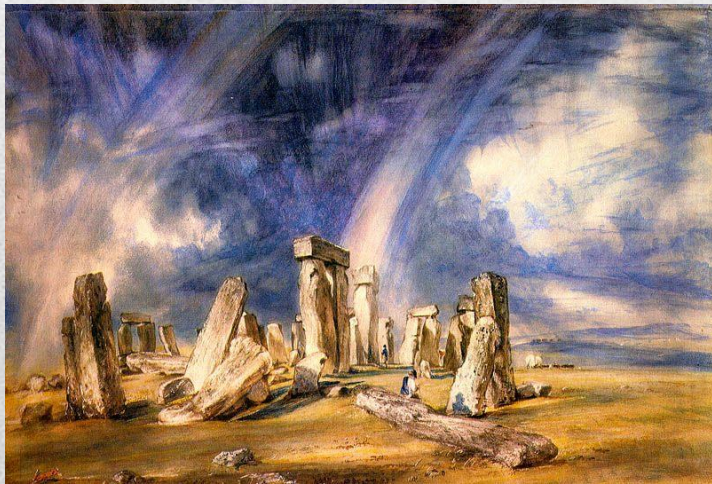
**Thomas Gainsborough**



**Thomas Gainsborough.** *Duchess of Beaufort.* 1770s. Oil on canvas.  
The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia



**'The Haywain'**



**'Stonehenge', 1836 (watercolour)**



A portrait of Constable in 1799  
painted by Ramsey Reimage



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# John Constable





Joseph Mallord William Turner,  
'Self Portrait', about 1799, Tate  
Gallery, London



**The Shipwreck**

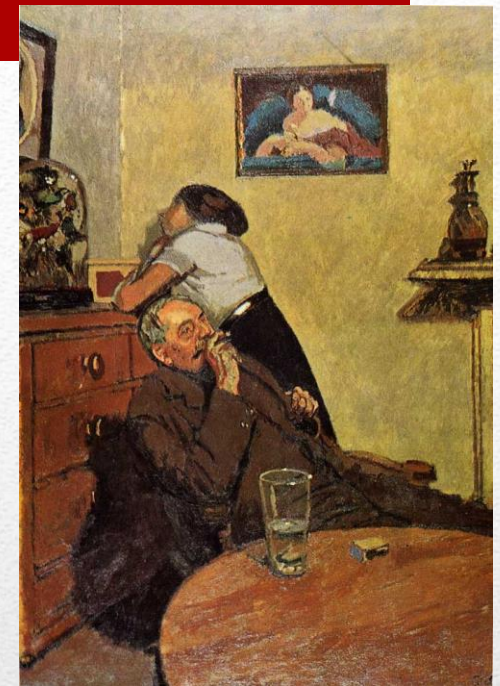


The Calais Pier

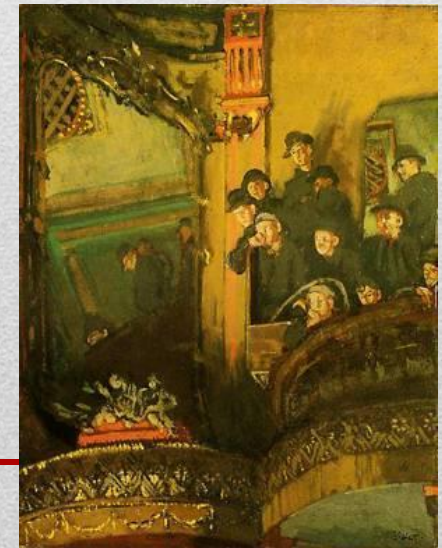
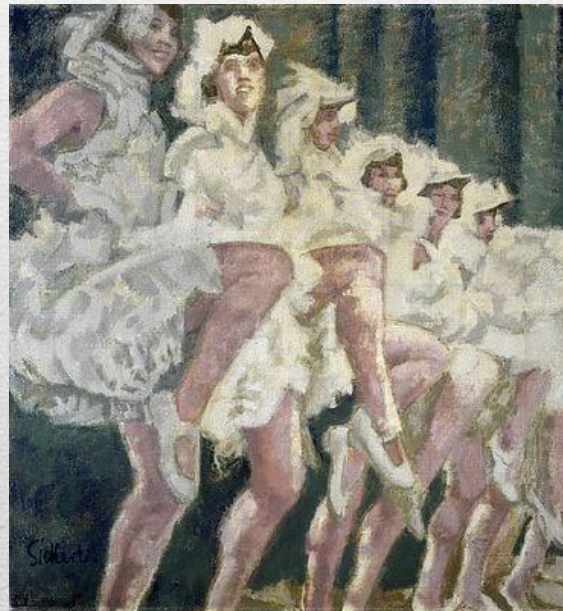


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# Joseph Mallord William Turner



'Ennui'

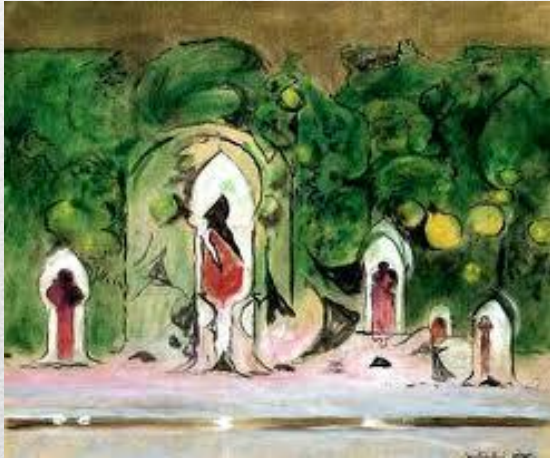


Walter Sickert was a man of mystery.

**Walter Sickert**



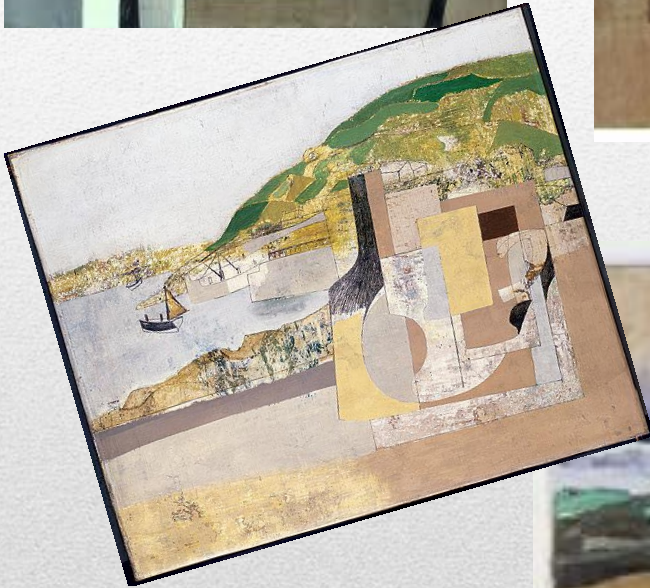
Study for a portrait of Churchill, by  
Graham Sutherland



Portrait of Somerset Maugham  
by Graham Sutherland



# Graham Sutherland



**Ben Nicholson**

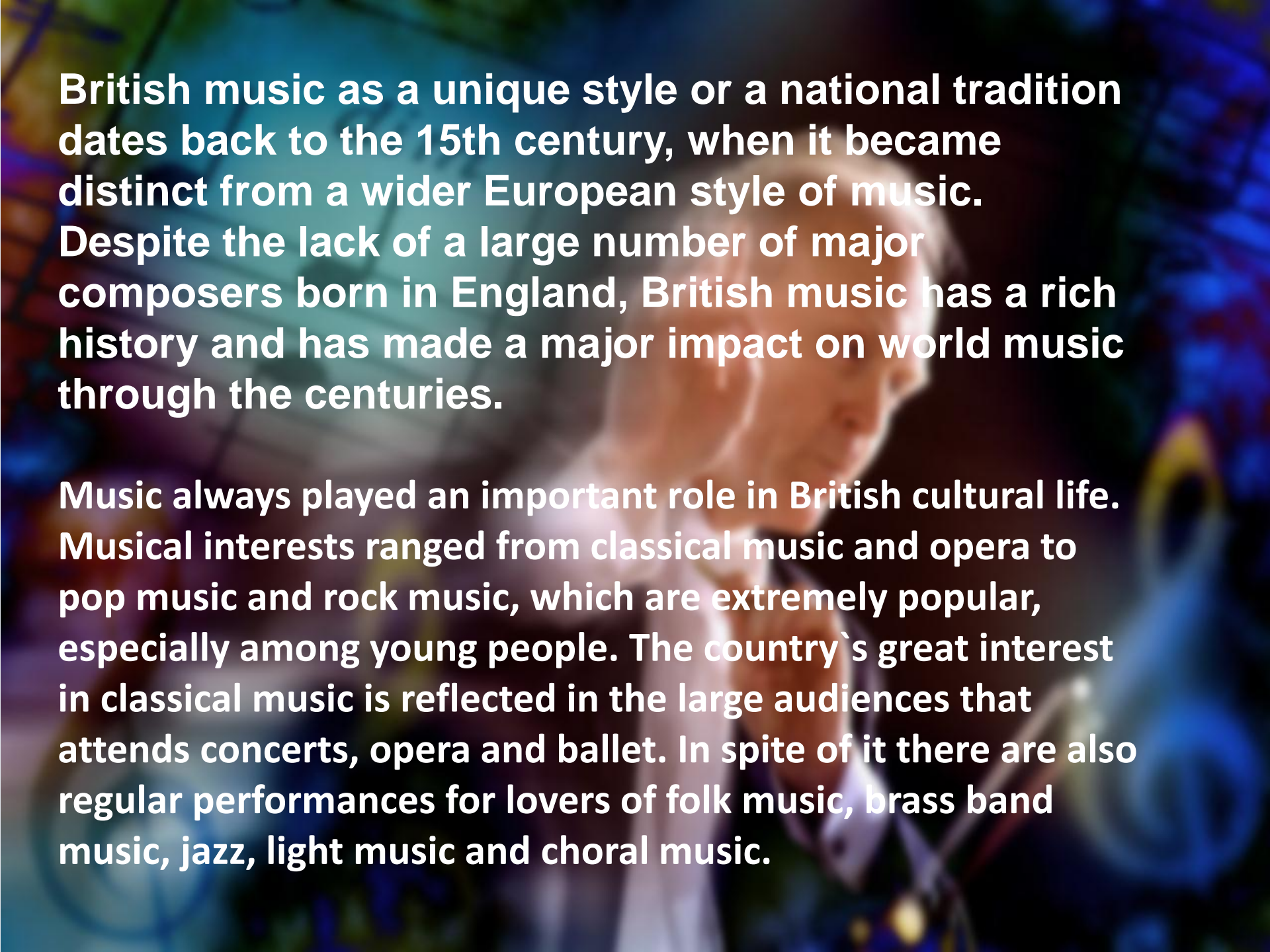


*British  
music*

*“Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom  
and philosophy.”*

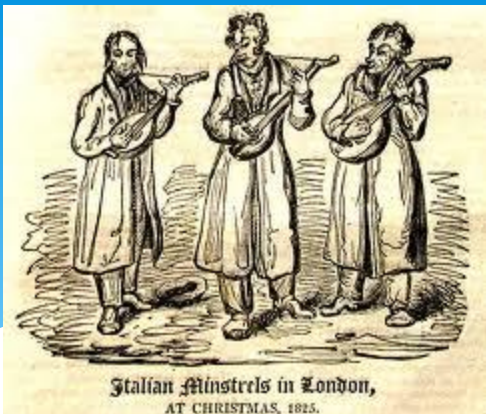
*Ludvig van Beethoven*





**British music as a unique style or a national tradition dates back to the 15th century, when it became distinct from a wider European style of music. Despite the lack of a large number of major composers born in England, British music has a rich history and has made a major impact on world music through the centuries.**

**Music always played an important role in British cultural life. Musical interests ranged from classical music and opera to pop music and rock music, which are extremely popular, especially among young people. The country's great interest in classical music is reflected in the large audiences that attends concerts, opera and ballet. In spite of it there are also regular performances for lovers of folk music, brass band music, jazz, light music and choral music.**



- \* **In the earliest periods**, British music took the form of minstrelsy (ˈmɪnstrəlsɪ) поэзия, песни менестрелей, in which performers who were paid by the king played and sang, usually to mark important occasions.
- \* The English were also known for "part singing," in which each performer sang a separate part of the song, rather than all performers singing together as was common in other European countries.



\* **In the Middle Ages**, music was associated primarily with the church; most British compositions that survived from this period were written for religious services. With the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, a new phenomenon of gained popularity in England, as the biblical texts psalm-singing were set to music and sung in Reformed churches and homes. Instrumental music, particularly for the lute by composers such as **John Dowland**, was also common during the Renaissance. At the end of the 17th century, **Henry Purcell's** compositions for the church, to celebrate events in the life of Queen Mary II and for the theater, were among the most important contributions to English music of the period.





Henry Purcell (1659-1695), a prominent British composer, lived in the 17th century. He was the founder of the British Opera. His opera “King Arthur” was very popular with spectators. The main idea of this opera was the struggle for the independence of Britain.

& **The German-born George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), who lived in England after 1712, is one of the most well-known English composers. Handel's operas were influential throughout the world. His Messiah (1742) had a particular influence on English music, as it became the inspiration for widespread amateur choral singing among the middle class.**





**George Handel (Georg Friedrich Händel) was born on February, 23rd, 1685 in a Saxon city of Halle (Halle). Since seven years actively was engaged in playing music, from nine — composer activity.**

**The first operas, "Amelia" and "Neron", Handel has written to 1705 . In 1707-1709 the composer travels and studies in Italy where to it the glory of the master of the Italian opera comes.**

**In the 1710 Handel goes to London, then in 1712 has for a short while returned to Hanover where has composed a number of vocal duets for the princess of Carolina (the future queen of Great Britain).**

**Since 1712 the composer almost constantly lives in England.**

From 1720 to 1728 Handel held a post of the director of Royal academy of music. On February, 13th, 1726 the composer obtained the British citizenship.

In 1720 and 1730 Handel continued to write many operas, and since 1740 basic place in its creativity occupy oratorios (most known of them — "Messiah").

In 1753 he became total blind. Handel died in April, 14th, 1759 in London. He was buried in Westminster abbey.

For the life Handel wrote a creative heritage about 50 operas, 23 oratorios, set of church chorals, organ concerts, and also a number of products of entertaining character.



⌘ In the 19th century, the growth in sheet music publishing and the manufacturing of pianos further contributed to the traditions of amateur and popular music. The tradition of composing for the theater was carried on in Victorian England by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, whose popular comic operas, including *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado* set the stage for the tradition of modern musical theater in England and the United States.



Between 1880 and 1887 the London Guildhall School of Music was established. The Royal College of Music, originating in a training school under Arthur Sullivan, was founded (1882-83) under Sir George Grove. The Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts, led by Sir Henry Wood were founded in 1895. The Promenade concerts are probably the most famous. They still continue today in the Royal Albert Hall. They take place every night for about three months in the summer, and the programmes include new and contemporary works, as well as classics. Among them are symphonies and other pieces of music composed by Benjamin Britten, the famous English musician.

**promenade concert** - концерт, во время которого публика может свободно ходить по залу, входить и выходить





⌘ In the middle of the 20th century, Benjamin Britten helped to keep the English operatic tradition strong, especially with his very popular and influential Peter Grimes. During this period, several important orchestras were founded, including the London Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic. British music festivals also started during this time and continue to be popular.

B. Britten is a well-known British composer (1913-1976). He has composed a large amount of music of all kinds, among them operas and choral works. His music is very expressive. One of his greatest works is the opera "Peter Grimes". It's an exciting story about a poor fisherman who was falsely accused and driven out of his native village.





In the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the British singers Michael Kelly, Nancy Storace and John Braham were prominent and by their example sustained the international opera and oratorio works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart and their successors in the British arena.

The Irish composer and virtuoso pianist John Field (1782-1837) was highly influential in his style of playing, inventing the nocturne and he is thought to have been an inspiration to Schumann, Chopin and Liszt.



⌘ Perhaps the most important contributions of British music have come not from its classical composers but from its flourishing popular music culture. In the period between the two World Wars, Britain experienced a general rise in leisure time and culture that led to increased appreciation for popular music and a significant growth in its production and distribution. During these years, the development of radio and the gramophone also increased the spread of popular music in England. The music of brass bands and dance halls was especially popular, as was jazz. Performers like and Ray Noble performed and recorded prolifically and sold records in the millions of copies in the years after World War I.





**The Rolling Stones**

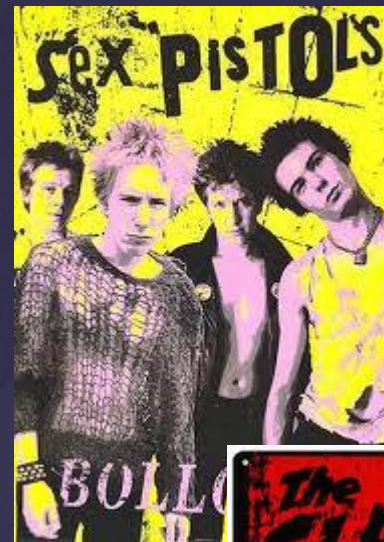
↳ In the early 1960s, British music reached its peak of popularity, success and influence. Beginning in 1960, the "British invasion" was an influx of British bands into the American music scene. Super groups, especially **the Beatles** and **the Rolling Stones** but many others as well, topped the American popular music charts and created sometimes hysterical reactions among fans when they arrived to play concerts in the United States.



↳ The "Beatlemania" that swept the United States during the Beatles' 1964 tour helped fuel the success of these bands. At the end of the 1960s, many American performers took up the styles - - in both sound and fashion -- that the Beatles and other English groups had made popular, continuing the influence of British culture on American popular music



English bands also dominated another important trend in late 20th-century popular music with the punk rock bands of the 1970s. Groups such as the Sex Pistols and The Clash produced music that was loud, fast and guitar-heavy. They set out to shock audiences with their attitudes and appearance and are often seen as giving voice to the economic and political struggles of 1970s England. British punk was, like the British pop music of the previous decade, a major influence on the American music scene. In the 1980s, a second British invasion hit the U.S. airwaves, led by the New Romantic, New Wave and Synth-Pop styles of groups such as A Flock of Seagulls, The Human League, Pet Shop Boys and, later, Depeche Mode and New Order.



Andrew Lloyd Webber is an English composer of musical theatre, the elder son of organist William Lloyd Webber and brother of the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber. Lloyd Webber started composing at the age of six, and published his first piece at the age of nine.



Lloyd Webber has achieved great popular success, with several musicals that have run for more than a decade both in the West End and on Broadway. He has composed 13 musicals, a song cycle, a set of variations, two film scores, and a Latin Requiem Mass. He has also gained a number of honours, including a knighthood in 1992, followed by a peerage from the British Government for services to Music, seven Tony Awards (and 40 nominations), three Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, seven Olivier Awards, a Golden Globe, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2006. Several of his songs, notably "The Music of the Night" from *The Phantom of the Opera*, "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" from *Evita*, "Any Dream Will Do" from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and "Memory" from *Cats* have been widely recorded and were hits outside of their parent musicals. His company, the Really Useful Group, is one of the largest theatre operators in London.

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# **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

**A mysterious voice calls out to a young opera singer Christine from the darkest depths of the majestic Paris Opera. Only one person in the company knows that the invisible patron and mentor, Christine, dreadful to artists disfigured genius of music, in love with a young beauty.**

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**Ghost in the mask will do everything to become a diva scene, but he has a masterful opponent - a rich Viscount Raoul de Chagny. Becoming a prisoner of love triangle, Christine must make a choice. But the passion that turned the head, fierce jealousy and mad love for your lover already issued a merciless verdict ...**

# SOME DATA



- **Budget: \$ 70 million**
- **Cash collections in the world:\$103 380 072**
- **Box Office in the U.S.: \$ 51,268,815**
- **Box office in Russia: \$ 2,267,690**
- **Premiere in the world 09.12.2004**
- **Release date in Russia: 06.01.2005.**

# The Phantom of the Opera



# Jesus Christ Superstar

