

# THE CLASSICAL ERA



1750 - 1800

# “Classic”al music

The term “classic” is normally used to describe something that has a broad and timeless appeal to a wide range of audiences. This is the perfect description for the type of music in this era. The masterpieces composed during this time still survive and are popular with many audiences today.



Beethoven Piano Sonatas

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=qctSDdNmEUY>

# Government Changes



- When King Louis XIV of France died in 1715, absolutism and the restrictions that came with it also started to die out.
- There were two major wars that also occurred during this time: The American Revolution (1775-1783) and the French Revolution (1789-1794).

# Societal Changes

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- This whole era was categorized as the **Enlightenment**, led by the great French philosophers Voltaire and Rousseau.
- The Enlightenment favored the human individual over the divine, reason over religion, and clarity over complexity.
- People during this time tried to improve education, eliminate superstition, and break down the rigid class structures that were so important in the previous time of absolutism.

# Freemasons



During the time of war, a brotherhood called the masons, under freemasonry, was formed that still exists today. The mysterious fraternal organization known as **Freemasonry** can trace its origins all the way back to the Middle Ages. But its roots took hold sometime at the end of the 16th Century with the organization of the first Masonic lodges. (Lodges are basic structures within Freemasonry and can be simply described as a meeting of a group of Masons.) It wasn't until the early 18th Century that Freemasonry was reorganized into larger more distinct units whose presence spread across Europe.

# Joseph Haydn

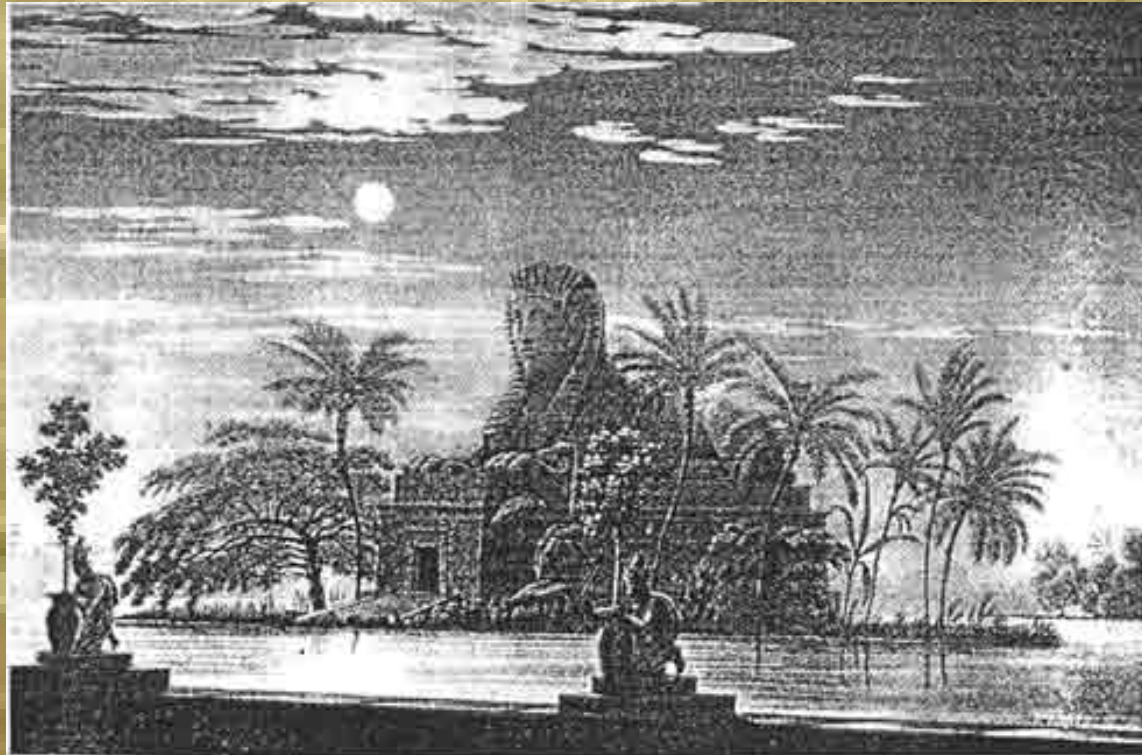


- Many famous and influential figures from the 18th Century were Masons—musicians included. Among the handful of 18th-century composers who are known Freemasons is **Joseph Haydn**, who was inducted into the Lodge “Zur wahren Eintracht,” or “True Concord,” in February of 1785.
- Little is known about Haydn’s participation and interest in the Viennese Lodge that he was a member of. Scholars believe it was minimal at best. The only known composition that he wrote for a Masonic lodge was not for one in Vienna, but in Paris.
- In 1786, Haydn received a lucrative commission to write six symphonies that were subsequently performed at the Parisian “Concert de la Loge Olympique.” In the tradition of many a Haydn symphony, three of the six Paris symphonies received nicknames such as the “the hen,” the queen,” and “the bear.”

# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- In the same month that Haydn applied for membership to a Lodge, **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** was inducted into Freemasonry. On December 14, 1784, Mozart became a member of Lodge “Zur Wohltätigkeit,” or “Beneficence.” Unlike Haydn, Mozart was an active member of the Freemasons and wrote a number of works for them, including one entitled “Masonic Funeral Music,” which employed Masonic symbolism.
- He also composed pieces for his musician friends who were also Masons such as the clarinetist **Anton Stadler**. Both the Clarinet Concerto and Clarinet Quintet were written for Stadler.
- Arguably the most talked-about composition of Mozart’s to honor the Freemasons in its use of symbolism is the opera “The Magic Flute,” which incorporates the number three, a particularly important number in Masonic symbology. The use of the number three and other symbols are found in the overture as well as the “March of the Priests” and the aria “O Isis und Osiris.”

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# Vienna

Vienna, Austria was the cultural and musical center of Europe by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Emperor was an amateur cellist and a huge supporter of the arts. This is apparent when the top three composers of the time, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, were all citizens of Austria.



# Public Concerts

This was the first era in music history in which public concerts became an important part of the musical scene. Music was still being composed for the church and the court, but the advent of public concerts reflected the new view that music should be written for the enjoyment and entertainment of the common person.



# Public Concerts

Because of the break-down in the social class system, the middle and lower class citizens in Europe felt entitled to the same high-end amenities that the upper class enjoyed, and one of these was music. The idea began in France around 1725, and soon all the major cities including London, Paris, Vienna, and Prague had public concerts for all classes.

# Music for the General Public



The huge increase in the number of musical consumers affected other areas of society too.

- Music publishing became a profitable business
- Middle-class citizens wanted to learn to play instruments
  - They paid musicians to teach them lessons.
  - They also bought musical instruments for their homes

# Music in the Classical Era



- Since music was accessible to the general public, the complex rhythms and counterpoint of Baroque music were no longer in fashion.
- Classical music was designed to appeal to a broader audience by being lighter, clearer, and much easier to listen to and play.

# Melody and Harmony in the Classic Era

- Classical Music was very simple, usually just a pleasing, sing-able melody with accompaniment, which was also very simple and clear.
- The harmonies were simple, logical, and clear with not much dissonance




# The Bass Line

- A majority of the harmony in classical music included a **walking bass line**, which consisted of bass notes moving mostly by step in an even, regular rhythm.

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written for a piano, with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the bass staff, and the accompaniment is in the treble staff. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure shows a treble staff with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and a bass staff with a quarter note (F3), a quarter note (G3), and a quarter note (A3). The second measure shows a treble staff with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and a bass staff with a quarter note (B2), a quarter note (A3), and a quarter note (G3). The third measure shows a treble staff with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and a bass staff with a quarter note (F3), a quarter note (G3), and a quarter note (A3). The score is marked with a '7' in the second measure, indicating a 7th fret. The score is also marked with a '5' in the first measure, indicating a 5th fret. The score is written in a style that is easy to read and play.


- Another bass type used in this time was **Alberti bass**, where a harmonic chord was broken up by rapid rhythms to keep the texture light and lively.

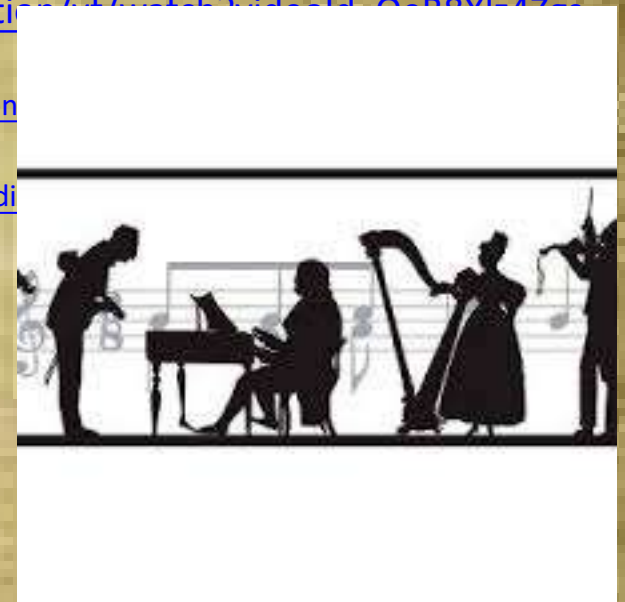
Haydn: Piano Sonata No. 59, movt. I



00:31

# Genres in Classical Music

- Many genres continued into the Classical Era from the Baroque, but they had a much different sound, and many were organized differently.
  - The main genres of the Classical Era were:
    - Opera [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14\\_0\\_00X/147...](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14_0_00X/147...)
    - Symphony [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14\\_0\\_00X/147...](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14_0_00X/147...)
    - String Quartet [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14\\_0\\_00X/147...](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/rt/instab2/video/14_0_00X/147...)
    - Sonata
      - Concertos were still in existence, but their principle didn't change
- 
- A black and white silhouette illustration of a classical music ensemble. It includes a pianist seated at a grand piano, a harpist standing to the right, and a violinist standing further right. Musical notes are floating in the air around them.



# Classical Opera

During the Baroque, Opera was *the* genre of music that ruled the era. Toward the end of the Baroque, however, some criticized it as being artificial from its subjects and plot to the costumes and sets. This was due in part to the upper class controlling these things and the middle and lower classes wanting it to be more accessible. They wanted it to be more simple and deal with real people in real situations. The result of this was **comic opera**.



# Comic Opera

- This new genre featured simpler music, down-to-earth characters, and an amusing plot instead of the serious, sometimes dreary plots of the Baroque Greek Tragedies.
- In Italy, the genre was known as **Opera Buffa**. In France it was called **Opera Comique**, and in Germany it was known as **Singspiel**.
- Most of the dialogue was spoken, not sung, but there were still arias throughout the production.

# La Serva Padrona

One of the most famous early comic operas was an Italian Opera Buffa titled *La Serva Padrona*. It is about a servant girl who tricks her master, a rich old bachelor, into marrying her. It mimics class barriers being crossed and the upper class in general

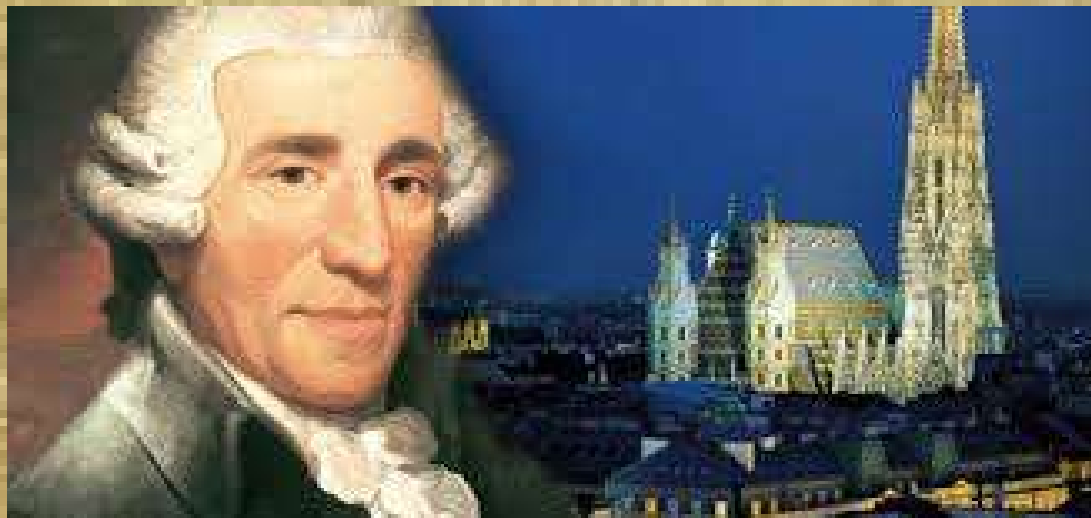
- 23:28
- <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=NsUeywPFEgQ>

# Franz Joseph Haydn



- Born in a small village in Austria
- One of 12 children in his family. Music-making was very popular in his home, and Haydn showed great promise.
- At the age of 8 he was accepted as a choir boy into the St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. He sang here until he was 18 years old.

- While at St. Stephen's Cathedral, he learned to play the harpsichord and the violin
- For the next 10 years after he left St. Stephen's, he gave lessons and played in a local orchestra.
- He also lived in a small apartment building, where other very influential musicians lived and helped him gain contacts.





# The Esterhazy Estate



- In 1761, Haydn was hired as assistant music director to the household of Prince Paul Anton Esterhazy.
- The prince had a multitude of servants, including 12 orchestra members.
- While working at the Esterhazy Estate, he was responsible for composing music quickly on demand, supervising and rehearsing the other musicians, and caring for the instruments.

# The Promotion



- After Prince Paul Anton died in 1762, he was succeeded by his brother, Prince Nikolaus, who was an avid music lover.
- Prince Nikolaus built a magnificent palace that could have had 2 large music rooms and two small theaters for opera. Haydn was promoted to Director of music here.
- While at Esterhaza, Haydn was responsible for directing all music, including two full operas and two big concerts each week.
- Extra concerts were held when important people were visiting, and music was also played during meals and in his chamber almost every day, making Haydn an extremely busy composer and director.

# The London Symphonies

Military Symphony - One reviewer wrote after the premiere that the second movement evoked the "hellish roar of war increas[ing] to a climax of horrid sublimity

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- Haydn stayed employed by the Esterhazy family until 1790, when Prince Nicolaus died. His son, the heir to the estate, despised music and disbanded the orchestra, firing Haydn.
- Haydn was nearly 60, and his work was internationally known, so he visited London twice, writing a series of symphonies known as the London Symphonies (No. 93-104).
- Many of these had nicknames, like the Military Symphony (No. 100), the Surprise Symphony (No. 94), and The Clock (No. 101).

# Haydn's Later Years

- After his second trip to London, he moved back to Vienna and wrote mostly string quartets and vocal music, including the famous oratorios “The Creation” and “The Seasons”
- He died in 1809 at the age of 77.



# Haydn's Compositions

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Over Haydn's lifetime, he composed about a dozen operas, over 100 symphonies (111), nearly 70 string quartets, over 50 keyboard sonatas, and a large amount of choral music, songs, and chamber music including masses and oratorios.



# Haydn's Music

- Haydn's music was regarded as genial and lively. Many of his pieces are still performed today in all genres.
- His operas are lyrical, inventive and moving
- His symphonies range from ceremonial public works to compositions of great delicacy, charm, and tragedy.
- His string quartets explore an enormous range of expression, and he gives many instruments the chance to play melodically and be the primary voice.
- His masses are noble and grand, giving beauty to the human voice.



# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Mozart was born into a musical family in 1756
- By the age of four he was already displaying amazing musical ability.
- At age six, he had started to compose and was performing at an extremely high level on the harpsichord.

# The Boy Genius

- Mozart's genius as a child caused such a sensation in London that he was examined and tested by scientists.
- They believed at first that he was an older short person, but then ruled that out when he stopped playing to play with a cat that entered the room.
- The scientists also said that, "he would also sometimes run about the room with a stick between his legs for a horse.





# The Father: Leopold Mozart

- His father was a distinguished violinist and composer who was the court music director for the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Austria
- As soon as he saw the musical potential in his son, Leopold Mozart decided to devote his career to promoting his son.
- From age six, Wolfgang's father took him on a 10-year tour, playing for various courts, towns, and royalty around Europe.

# Mozart's Travels



- By traveling so much, Mozart was able to learn and hone the skills learned from his father.
- He was also able to absorb musical influences like a sponge. Anywhere he went, he picked up the musical style of the region and learned from the prominent composers.
  - One major influence was J.C. Bach, whom he met in 1764 and 1765.
- From all these experiences, Mozart was able to create his own individual style of playing and composing.

# Childhood Compositions



- By the age of 8, he had music published and circulating the country.
- At age 10, he had already written symphonies, and by 14 he had written a full-length opera.
- When he finally returned home to Salzburg, he was 17, an adult, and looking for a employment.



After returning to Salzburg, Austria, he worked for the same Prince Archbishop that his father worked for, but he and his father believed that he was too talented. Mozart then set out to visit other cultural areas in search for a job, including Munich, Mannheim, and Paris, all of which had fantastic orchestras and musical centers. While in Paris, his mother died, leaving the whole family devastated.

After his travels, he was still unemployed because he was considered overqualified, and directors felt threatened by such a brilliant composer and performer. He returned home to continue working in Salzburg.

# Freelance Musician

In 1780, Mozart accompanied his boss the Archbishop to Vienna, where he was supposed to play for audiences. The Archbishop refused that he play, so Mozart resigned from his job right then and became a freelance musician in Vienna. He taught piano lessons and wrote solo keyboard literature to bring in more money. These pieces were very popular in Vienna, and he had more success when he wrote a German-style serious opera.

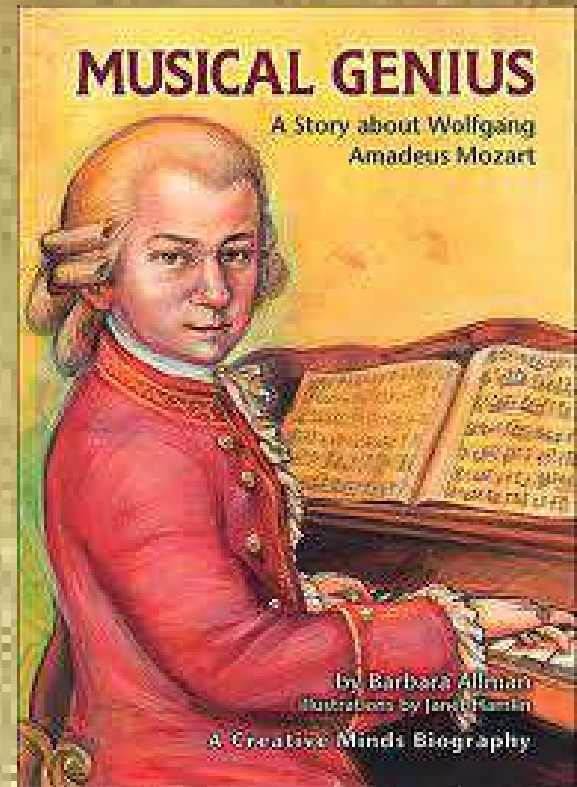
# Freelance Musician



- Mozart also wrote a set of string quartets to imitate Haydn's- he dedicated them to him as a friend. The two had met a few times before, and they enjoyed performing and composing together.
- Between 1784 and 1786, he wrote 12 piano concertos in Vienna. This was a great opportunity for him to compose and perform for the public, making him increasingly popular in the area.

# Decline in Viennese Popularity

- His popularity, however, started to decline in the late 1780's. The culture and society on Vienna craved the next and newest trend, and Mozart's music became stale after so many years.
- Because of this, he started to lose finances and had to borrow money from many friends. He didn't write much during this time, but he did write his last three symphonies, No. 39, 40, and 41 in a span of eight weeks in 1788.



# Mozart's Operas

- In the last five years of his life, he wrote five operas, three of which were considered remarkable for the time, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *The Magic Flute*.
- All of these showed Mozart's ability to express true human nature and emotion through the story line and accompanying music.



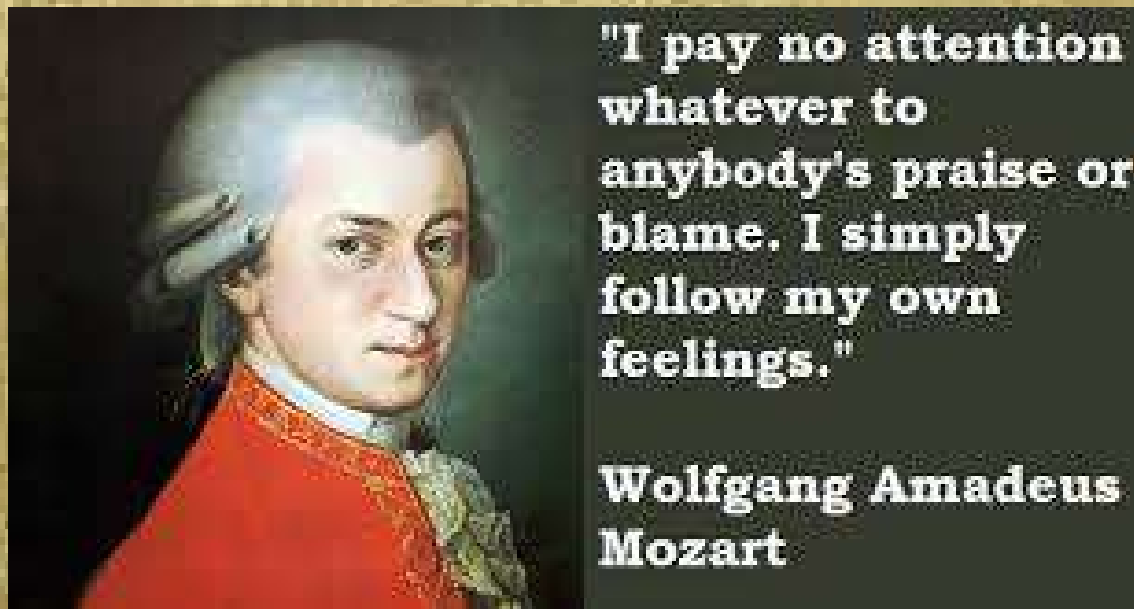
# Mozart's Death

During November of 1791, he fell ill while working on a Requiem Mass, or Mass for the Dead. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 35, he died in Vienna with over half a lifetime of pieces uncomposed.



# Mozart's Music

- Compared to Haydn, Mozart's music is more emotional and expressive- he was said to have "worn his heart on his sleeve".



# Mozart's Music



His music also appealed to all audiences, from experts and amateurs, and ears of all ages and tastes. He wrote over 800 compositions, from light little comic pieces to works that explore great, deep themes of human existence: life and death, love and tragedy, despair and hope.

# Mozart's Musical Genres

Mozart wrote in all of the main genres of the Classical Era

- Opera [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=\\_oKU94kxv-o](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=_oKU94kxv-o)
- Symphony – 40 <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=2HbMzu1aQW8>
- String Quartet <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=pUw6zbxlqmg>
- Sonata <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=RrINvewUEFU>
- Piano Concertos – over 20, considered to be his best works <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=eLhrBu5KRsk>
- Solo concertos for a variety of instruments
  - Violin, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn.

# Mozart's Music

Mozart's Requiem 9:30

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=q5Y2B55nKZY>



- His music, especially his emotional melodies and intricate harmonies, was much richer, more versatile, and more varied than any other composer of the day, but it used the same conventions of the time.
- The instruments were the same, as well as the forms and genres used, but his music spoke to more of the audience and covered a wider range of emotions, making his the true “classical” music.

# Ludwig Van Beethoven

## (1770-1827)

- Beethoven is easily the most popular composer of all time.
- His life bridges the gap between the Classical Era and the Romantic Era, which started around the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- He was both a child and student of one era and the father of the next.



# Beethoven's Many Contributions to Music



- He enlarged the orchestra, changed musical structure, added a chorus to the symphony, and told narratives with some of his purely instrumental works.
- He took the forms, procedures, and ideals of the Classical Era and developed them to bring them into a new age with his own personality stamp.
- The Classical genres (symphony, concerto, sonata, and string quartet) were forever changed and transformed to fit into the 19<sup>th</sup> century through his expression.

# Beethoven's Childhood

- Ludwig Van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770 into a family of musicians. Both his grandfather and father were professional musicians at the court of the local ruler in Germany. His grandfather was highly respected, but his father was somewhat of a drunk and gained a bad reputation.
- As a teenager, Beethoven was put in charge of the family finances and started a job at the same court, where he studied organ and composition. This is where his musical life began.



# Beethoven meets Haydn



- In 1790, Haydn was passing through Bonn, met Beethoven, and agreed to take him on as a student when he came back from London.
- In 1792 when Haydn returned, Beethoven moved to Vienna to study with the great composer. He was 22, and Haydn was 60.
- Due to Beethoven's headstrong nature and Haydn's tendencies to be arrogant and old-fashioned, the lessons did not go well. However, because Beethoven was a great piano performer, he found work and patrons in Vienna and stayed to compose and perform in royal courts.

# Beethoven's Compositional Periods

Beethoven composed so many works with a style that developed so much over time.

Because of this, his works can be divided into three distinct periods:

- Early Years
- Heroic Phase
- Late Years



# Beethoven's Early Years (1794-1800)

- During this time, Beethoven mostly wrote piano works and chamber music pieces.
- As time went on, he decided to begin composing larger works including string quartets, piano concertos, and symphonies.
  - One of his most famous works from this time period is the Violin Sonata, "Spring."





# The Heroic Phase (1800-1815)

Moonlight Sonata

[http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7\\_I2PHHb0](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7_I2PHHb0)

- In 1802, Beethoven discovered he was going deaf and went into a state of deep depression. He contemplated on committing suicide, but decided that he must continue writing the music that was still inside his head.
- After he made this decision, he entered a state of vigorous concentration for his music with a sense of triumphing over adversity, and his music reflected this in every piece.
- Most of his compositions in his entire lifetime were composed during this period.

# The Heroic Phase (1800-1815)

- Most of Beethoven's popular works come from this period, which begins with the Third (Eroica) Symphony and ends with works like the "Emperor" Concerto.
- To this group of works also belongs the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth symphonies, his most and least popular concertos, his only opera, "Fidelio", some overtures, most of his songs, and three string quartets, but very few piano sonatas.

Fideleo

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# Eroica, Beethoven's Third Symphony

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=cziRynzmWaA>

- The **Third Symphony** was a revolutionary work of such unprecedented length and complexity that audiences at first found it difficult to grasp.
- Most remarkable, however, in this movement, as in all of Beethoven's, is neither formal pattern nor the abundance of ideas, but the way in which all the material is propelled constantly along, one theme seeming to unfold out of another in a steady dynamic growth which mounts from one climax to the next, driving with a sense of utter inevitability to the end. This capacity to organize a large amount of contrasting material into a unified musical whole is one of the chief marks of Beethoven's greatness
- Bouilly's scenario fits Beethoven's aesthetic and political outlook: a story of personal sacrifice, heroism and eventual triumph (the usual topics of Beethoven's "middle period") with its underlying struggle for liberty and justice mirroring contemporary political movements in Europe.

# Symphony no. 6 - Pastoral Symphony

- The composer said that the Sixth Symphony is "more the expression of feeling than painting", a point underlined by the title of the first movement ("Awakening of cheerful feelings...").



# Beethoven's Popularity



- During his Heroic phase, Beethoven became very famous. His works were regarded as strong and patriotic at a time when his homeland was at war with France.
- Because of his fame, he also became quite wealthy, with his music being published and performed more than ever. Aristocratic and Royal Patrons also paid him a good deal of money.

# Personality and Struggle

As soon as Beethoven's deafness began, he had to stop performing his piano pieces, and he became increasingly introverted and antisocial. He was sometimes seen walking in the park without a coat or hat, ignoring the weather and muttering to himself.



# The Late Years

## Personal Crisis and his Halt to Creativity

- In 1815, the death of Beethoven's brother brought a family into Beethoven's life. His brother's wife and son were dependent on him, and for the first time, Beethoven had someone else to live for.
- However, Beethoven wanted possessive custody over the son, Karl, and ended up in a lot of legal battles. Finally winning custody, Beethoven was finally a father, but ended up having a bad relationship with the son, who was returned to his mother after a few years when he was 19.
- During this busy time, Beethoven wrote nearly nothing, but then came back after the turmoil with his best symphony yet, Symphony no. 9

# 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=ErcW13YyEGU>

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=QDViACDYxnQ>



The ninth symphony, finished in 1824, was revolutionary, including a choir and 4 vocal soloists in the fourth movement. The text for the choir was from a great German poet Schiller: The Ode to Joy, which was a summation for Beethoven's philosophy on life, especially the lines: "Let Joy bring everyone together; all men will be brothers; let all kneel before God."

# String Quartets

- After Symphony no. 9, Beethoven spent his last years devoted entirely to string quartets.
- Many people have found that these last works are Beethoven's greatest and most difficult music.



<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=zyDs0wb3FAE>

# Beethoven's Death

- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827, Beethoven died at the age of 56, leaving an incredible mark on music and the way it has been experienced by listeners ever since.
- His funeral procession took place in Vienna, and over 20,000 people attended.



# Beethoven Documentary

## “Beethoven’s Genius” by the BBC

- [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=aD\\_tbzrUj2k](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=aD_tbzrUj2k)

# Beethoven Emotions Worksheet

1. Beethoven Piano Concerto 5  
<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=Wlaw2rCV9PM>
2. Moonlight Sonata  
[http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7\\_IZPHHb0](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7_IZPHHb0)
3. String Quartet 28:42  
<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=zyDs0wb3FAE>
4. Fur Elise <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=Lkcvrxj0eLY>
5. Symphony No. 5  
[http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=\\_4IRMYuE1hl](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=_4IRMYuE1hl)
6. Symphony No. 6  
<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=a6yeINepxcc>
7. Symphony 6 Storm movement 29:00
8. Symphony No. 9 15:00  
<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=QDViACDYxnQ&name=Beethoven+Symphony+%239+in+D+minor+Opus+125%2C+4th+movement.++Leonard+Bernstein+and+the+Vienna+Phil&uploadUsername=dumbodog&hitCount=115414>
9. Symphony 9 - 1<sup>st</sup> mvmt
10. Opera <http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=oDcm17CFpol>

# Rococco Style, Popular in the Classical Era

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=KBf2aUwODMY>



- In the world of painting, Rococo style is characterized by delicate colors, many decorative details, and a graceful and intimate mood. Similarly, music in the Rococo style is homophonic and light in texture, melodic, and elaborately ornamented.
- In France, the term for this was style galant (gallant or elegant style) and in Germany empfindsamer stil (sensitive style).
- François Couperin (1668-1733), in France, and two of the sons of J. S. Bach, C. P. E. Bach (1714-1788) and Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782), in Germany, were important composers of music in the Rococo style.

# Convention in Classical Music

- The 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of strict social conventions, and there were strict dress codes and rules for governing social behavior, like when to curtsy, when to bow, what to talk about, and even what to write in letters.
- Naturally, music followed very strict conventions too, like instruments used for certain pieces, number of movements, and length of each movement.
- A new innovation for music happened in the classical era and stemmed from these strict social conventions;

**Form**



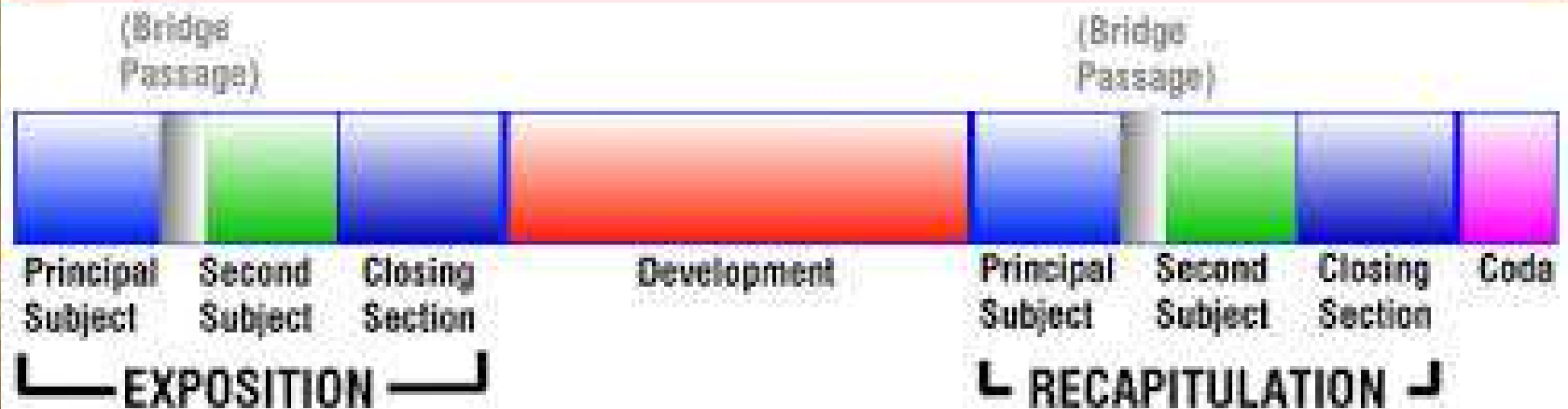
# Form without Originality

In music today, we look for as much originality as we can. However, originality is a fairly new phenomenon. In the Classical Era, everything in music was expected to follow a form of some type. These forms were created through the experimentation in the Early Baroque and set in stone by the Late Baroque so all composers in the Classical Era were expected to abide by them. When they didn't it was considered unacceptable by all of society.

# Form

- The most common types of forms used were sonata form, aria form, minuet-and-trio form, and rondo form.
- Of these, the most important is Sonata Form.

## A Diagram of Sonata Form



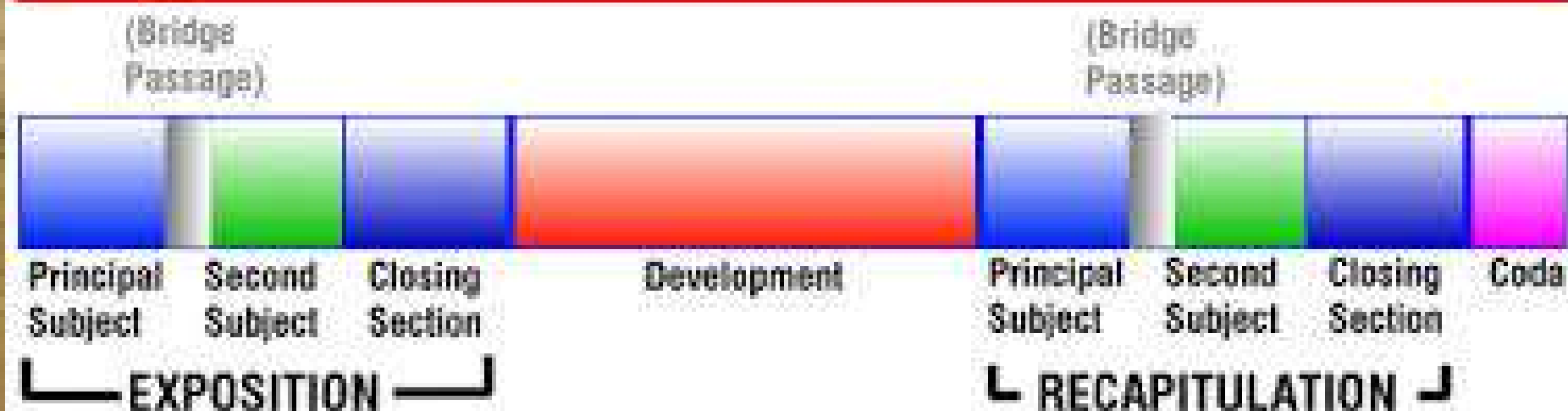
# Form of the Sonata

- The standard Classical form is:
  - 1st movement: Allegro (fast) in **sonata form**
  - 2nd movement: Slow
  - 3rd movement: Minuet and Trio or Scherzo
    - (A **minuet and trio** is a dance movement with three beats in a bar.)
  - 4th movement: Allegro

# Sonata Form

- Exposition: Stating of musical themes, normally two separate themes
- Development: Taking the themes stated in the Exposition and developing on them in various ways
- Recapitulation: Restating of the first and second themes, sometimes with slight differences.
- ❖ A great example of this is *Eine Kline Nacht Music* by W.A. Mozart

# A Diagram of Sonata Form



With Sonata Form came the development of the modern concerto, symphony, sonata, trio and quartet to a new peak of structural and expressive refinement. If Baroque music is notable for its textural intricacy, then the Classical period is characterized by a near-obsession with structural clarity.



# Minuet-and-Trio Form

Beethoven Minuet in G [http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=16XQTpm\\_Olk](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=16XQTpm_Olk)

The most important characteristics of a minuet and trio are:

- It is always in  $\frac{3}{4}$  meter
- It has a moderate tempo-not too slow or too fast
- It is always in ABA form
  - Minuet -> Trio -> Minuet
- There is always some sort of contrast in the trio, like minor and major, or loud and soft



# Exam Listening

## 56. Moonlight sonata

[http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7\\_IZPHHb0](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=nT7_IZPHHb0)

## 57. Symphony 5

[http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=\\_4IRMYuE1hl](http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=_4IRMYuE1hl)

## 58. String quartet -

## 59. Symphony No. 9 15:00

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=QDViaCDYxnQ&name=Beethoven+Symphony+%239+in+D+minor+Opus+125%2C+4th+movement.++Leonard+Bernstein+and+the+Vienna+Phil&uploadUsername=dumbodog&hitCount=115414>

## 60. Eine Kline Nachtmusic

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=XKwJHPYqGko>

- The Teaching Company's "How To Listen To and Understand Great Music

- Or

<http://www.cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?videoid=7jUqgQ0G1Yc>