

Classical Period

1750-1820

What else is going on in the world?

- 1767: Joseph Priestly invents carbonated water - soda water
- 1776: Signing of the Declaration of Independence
- 1789: George Washington becomes President of the U.S.
- 1794: Eli Whitney patents the cotton gin
- War of 1812
- Napoleon is dictator of France

Madame Recamire, 1800, by Jacques-Louis David



- Look at this famous painting from the Classical Period. The woman is dressed like a classic Greek statue. There is just the lamp and couch, no other furniture. The colors are not bright and shocking, but soft and gentle. The overall image is sharp, simple, calm, elegant, and orderly. Many of the paintings of the Classical period had these traits.
- **Music of the Classical period was clean, elegant, balanced, controlled, and simple.**

Characteristics of Classical Period Music

- Structure and form become even more important.
- Homophony: one melody over a less important harmony (the opposite of polyphony)
- Dynamics became more important.
- Changes in mood and timbre became more common place.
- New forms emerged: symphony(4 movements), Sonata (ABA form)
- The harpsichord was not used as often as it is replaced by the piano.

Joseph Haydn

1739-1809

Austrian

Composed “Surprise
Symphony (Symphony
#94)

Known as the “Father of
the Symphony”



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

1756 – 1791 died at age 35

Austrian

He was a child prodigy.

By the age of 5, he was well accomplished on the violin and piano and was composing.

By the age of 6, Mozart was traveling all over the world playing for kings, queens, and other important people.



Circa 1780

MOZART

Wild,
uninhibited, a
musical
genius

Composed in
many
different
genres –
symphonies,
concertos,
operas



Some of his most
famous works
include:

Eine Kleine
Nachtmusik (A
Little Night
Music)

Symphony #40

Wrote more than 600 pieces of music – averaging 20 pieces a year, or a new piece every two weeks for thirty years. To play all his music, one piece after another, it would take 8 days.

Ludwig van Beethoven

- German
- 1770-1827
- Began going deaf around the age of 25
- Considered a musical genius but not fully accepted until after his death.



Ludwig van Beethoven

Instruments of the Classical Period

» Flute



Clarinet



Instruments of the Classical Period

- Horn



- Serpent



Instruments of the Classical Period

- Trombone



- Piano

