## Neo-Classical & Classical

1720-1827

Style in music. Reacts to the excesses of monarchy and ornamentation of the Baroque. Returns to order, reason and structural clarity

#### A Classical Introduction

- This era emphasized: morality and the study of beauty and understanding.
- Music now had many layers (polyphony) and began to become homophonic (lots of harmonies).

- Music was composed to appeal not only to the aristocratic society but also to the middle classes as well.
- In 1785, Michel Paul de Chabanon wrote that "Today there is but one music of all of Europe."

- Ideas of reason, nature, and morality reflected in the form of music.
- Focus on music in good taste, elegance, and would appeal to all people.
- Predictable in order and form.

- Move toward equality and popularizing of ideals typical of philosophers.
- Simplicity and carefully attentive to form (structure of music).
- Classical term not applied for music until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- No known classical predecessors to revive.
- No classical models like that of the visual arts.
- Articulated structure in music (form).
- Organized into short phrases recur regularly and clearly.

- Clearly avoids the Baroque style of music.
- Relies on melodic line that can be shaped into clear and expressive contours and brought to a defining cadence (conclusion).
- New rhythmic patterns
- Baroque used numerous ornamental parts to flow together in a complex design.
- Classical music allowed more opportunity for rhythm, variety, and contrasts in compositions.

 Developed key structures and harmonizing relationships



#### Classical Musical Forms

- Major musical forms opera, oratorio, and concerto changed due to new classical inventions.
- A good example is Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.
- A comic opera themes of love and marriage.
- Fast-paced plot

### Classical Musical Forms

- Subplots and dramatic conflict added to the music.
- Tied to human concerns and less stereotyped than earlier dramas.

#### Classical Musical Forms

- Becomes essential to have 1 solo or single instrument.
- 1st piano concertos were formal.
- Chamber music increased in popular appeal.
- Chamber music is music for performance by a small group of instrumentalists. This was to be performed in private rooms verses public halls.

# Even More Classical Musical Forms



- Small ensemble formats were perfect for 18<sup>th</sup> c. salons
- String quartets emerged as a new form!!!

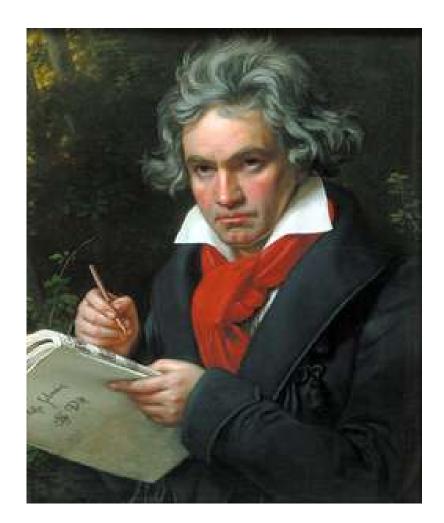
# Most Important Forms of this Period

- Piano Sonata Op. 27 No. 2 van Beethoven (1770-1827) @ 1999-2005 What Sheet Music, Inc.
  - Symphony for a full orchestra.
  - Sonata for 1 or 2 solo instruments.
  - EX: Moonlight Sonata

# Composers for Englightenment, Classical and Neo-Classical...

- Haydn
- · Mozart
- Beethoven
- Their works stood as supreme models to the Classical era.





- Known as the "Musical Master"
- He wrote from the heart to reach others' hearts.
- German (1770-1827)
- Father and grandfather were both musicians.
- Father was his 1<sup>st</sup> music teacher.
- Started playing the piano and violin when he was 4.
- Had his first concert at age 7.
- At 12, he published his 1<sup>st</sup> piece.

- Sometimes, his other music teacher would let him direct the orchestra part of the time!
- His father was not the best of teachers or parents.
- He would often beat Beethoven and lock him in the basement to make him practice.
- Sometimes his father would come home drunk and wake Ludwig up to make him practice until morning...

- He moved to Vienna when he was 22 his home for life and work.
- He (like da Vinci and others) took a notebook religiously with him. If he was out and didn't have it, he would write on napkins, menus, etc.
- He studied composition under Haydn and others.

- He tried to establish himself as a pianist and a composer.
- His good relations with the town's aristocracy led him to a secure income.
- This time was called his early period trying to master the high classical styles.
- During the middle period, he started losing his hearing in his 20s. He started becoming suspicious of people and hard to get along with.

- Not only losing his hearing, he soon began to deal with the harshness of his early life.
- Beethoven often would outburst into uncontrollable fits of rage due to his hearing loss and feelings of isolation.
- He began thinking about suicide.
- In fact, he wrote his brothers (whom he hated) and told them this.

- However, he still composed by hearing the songs in his head.
- He even went as far as to saw the legs off of his piano to make it closer to the floor.
- This way, while composing, he could put an ear to the ground and gather the vibrations!!!

- This hearing disorder began to affect his social life as well.
- Due to his traumatic childhood (and some parts unknown), he never got involved with a woman in a normal relationship.
- He seemed to be attracted to the women he couldn't get or was hard to get.

## The Immortal Beloved...

- A good example of this was his brief relationship with Antoine Bretano – who broke up with him to marry one of his friends.
- As if this was not hard enough, he now was getting to the point where he could no longer perform.

#### The Late Period

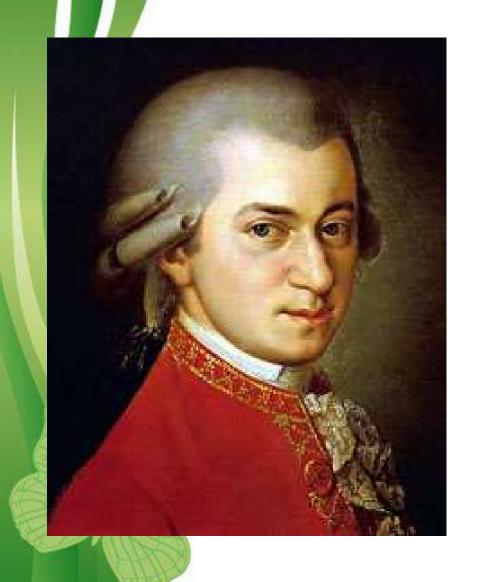
- Many years went without much creative work.
- He was tormented by personal matters concerning a nephew he was trying to gain custody of when his brother died.
- He failed due to lack of "Capacity as a human being."
- The music became less dramatic and more introverted.
- It was, however, more mature and secure.
- Developed pneumonia and died relatively poor.

#### In Death...

It was said that over 10,000 people attended Beethoven's funeral...

- Critics often consider him the bridge between Classicism and Romanticism.
- He wanted to expand classical symphonies to create a more emotional power for the people.
- His symphonies are significantly different from those of Haydn and Mozart.

- They were more dramatic and used changing dynamics more often for emotional effects.
- Uses silence as a device in pursuit of dramatic effect and structural ends.
- His works are longer than the other two composers.



# • WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

#### **WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

- Austrian
- Son of a musician Leopold Mozart
- Influenced Mozart throughout life.
- By the age of 4, Mozart had composed his 1<sup>st</sup> piece.
- When he was 5 and 6, his father took him on concert tours around Europe.
- COMPOSED HIS FIRST SYMPHONY AT THE AGE OF 8!

#### MOZART

- By the age of 11, he had written his 1<sup>st</sup> opera and had already gained a reputation as a child prodigy!
- Mozart was not satisfied with the musical standards of those around him, and often he invented his own set of standards.
- Critics claim that Mozart possessed a gift of melody that has never been equaled in history.

#### MOZART

- He held several positions with important noblemen and rulers, including the prince, the archbishop, and Emperor Joseph II.
- He longed to compose music that would pleasure both himself and others.
- Mozart wanted to be a free-lance musician, but he was never able to fully free himself of the patronage system that had governed the arts for more than 600 years.

## Patronage System

The **Patronage System** was a system that was composed of wealthy individuals and/or families that offered money, food and shelter, protection, etc. to artists that were struggling...

#### MOZART

- BECAME SEMI-FAMOUS BY PUBLISHING AND PLAYING THE PIANO AND HAVING ONE OF HIS OPERAS PERFORMED
- He was successful at any form of music he tried.
- Sometimes, he would only write one draft of music.
- Very few changes were ever made to his works.

#### MOZART

- Mozart excelled in operatic and symphonic compositions.
- He also excelled in solo concertos as well (EX: piano)
- Symphony: work made up of 4 movements (sections) separated by silence.
- His symphonies were relatively short and simple.
- They were tremendously emotional.
- His later works were somewhat longer.

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MOZART...

- He was known to carry on conversations with people while composing music at the same time.
- He was best friends with Haydn. After Mozart died, Haydn could never speak of Mozart without tearing up!

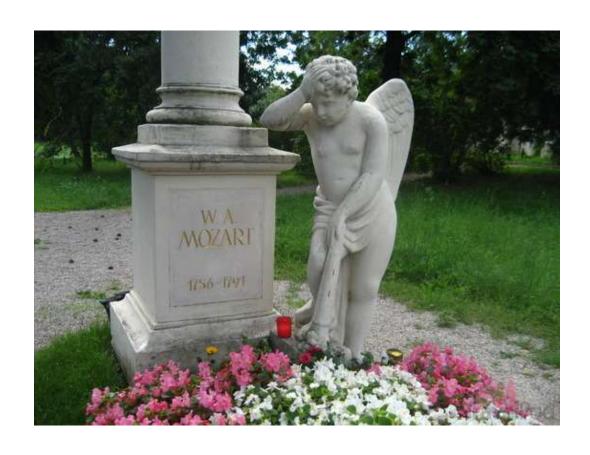
#### MOZART



- Mozart never appeared to have money troubles, but when he died of a mysterious illness in 1791, he died penniless.
- He was not a good manager with money!

#### MOZART

- MOZART DIED AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-FIVE!!!
- Died before he finished Requiem, buried in an unmarked grave in Vienna.





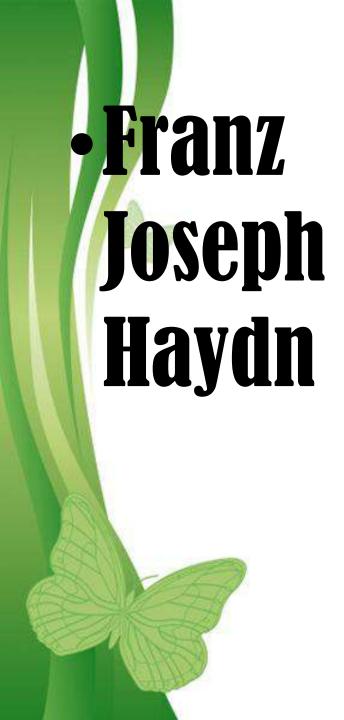
#### MOZART



 Mozart stands as one of the three monumental composers of the Classical era, and his music will always stand as an example of artistry and beauty.

### A Quote from Mozart...

"Composing is not a very difficult thing for me. I simply copy down the music as it is in my head."



- Hungarian
- Celebrated as a composer of genius during his lifetime.
- Known as "The Father of Symphony".
- A central figure in the growth of Classical style.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> of 12 children; one of only six children that reached adulthood.
- As a boy, he showed musical talent through singing and delighted his family with his talent.

- When he was 6, his parents sent him away to study music.
- His music teacher often beat he and the other students.
- However, he encouraged Haydn's gift of singing and instrumental talent; he taught Haydn to play several instruments.

- He became a member of the St. Stephen's Cathedral choir in Vienna.
- When Haydn's voice changed, the choirmaster lost interest in him.
- When he was caught cutting off a choir member's pigtail, he was thrown out of the choir.

- Penniless and close to starvation at 18, Haydn worked under Nicola Porpora as an accompanist.
- Haydn learned about composing and met important people.
- He played for the emperor's court, and performed as an assistant musical director.

### Trivia Fact...

Adolph Hitler's favorite composer was Haydn. He would listen to Haydn's works while strategizing his plans!!!!



### Another

# Characteristics of Haydn

- Pioneered the development of the symphony.
- He turned them from short, simple works into longer, more sophisticated ones.
- Diverse and numerous (wrote more than 104).
- Previous symphonies had used the three-part movement form.
- His symphonies have more emotion and are on a larger scale than the earlier works.

# Characteristics of Haydn

- They were dramatic and employed sudden and unexpected changes/dynamics.
- They contained great warmth; they utilized folk songs and Baroque dance music (so this is one composer that did utilize that of the Baroque era).

# Haydn's Works

- His works contain:
- Symphony No.1, Symphony No. 22: The Philosopher, Symphony No. 94: The Surprise, The Creation, Symphony No. 101: The Clock, and Symphony No. 104: The London.
- He wrote sacred works, music of theatrical comedies, and chamber music.