



Classical Music 1750 - 1800

Higher Music

Characteristics



- A less complicated texture than had been evident in Baroque times (less Polyphonic)
- More use of expression through Dynamics. Greater Dynamic contrast were evident
- An elegant character
- Clear use of phrasing
- Clear use of cadences
- Changing themes and emotions within one piece of music
- Harmony changes were slower, less frequent unlike Baroque music which often changed chords 2 or 3 times per bar
- The replacement of the Harpsichord with the Piano
- Less use of Continuo
- The use of Alberti Bass in Piano music

Mozart

Symphony No 40



Listen carefully to the opening movement of this work and try to answer the following questions.

1. Is the piece in a major or minor key?
2. Which family of instruments play the opening theme?
3. What playing technique are the strings using?



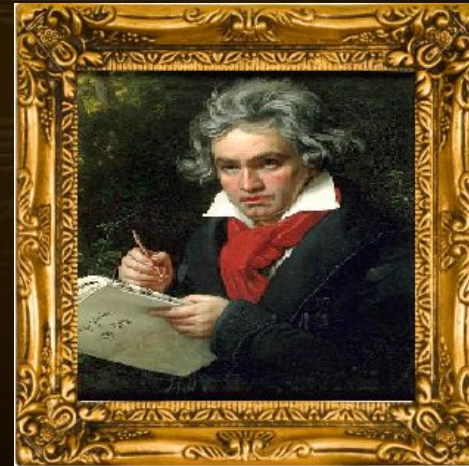
Composers



Mozart:
1756-1791



Haydn:
1732-1809



Beethoven:
1770-1827

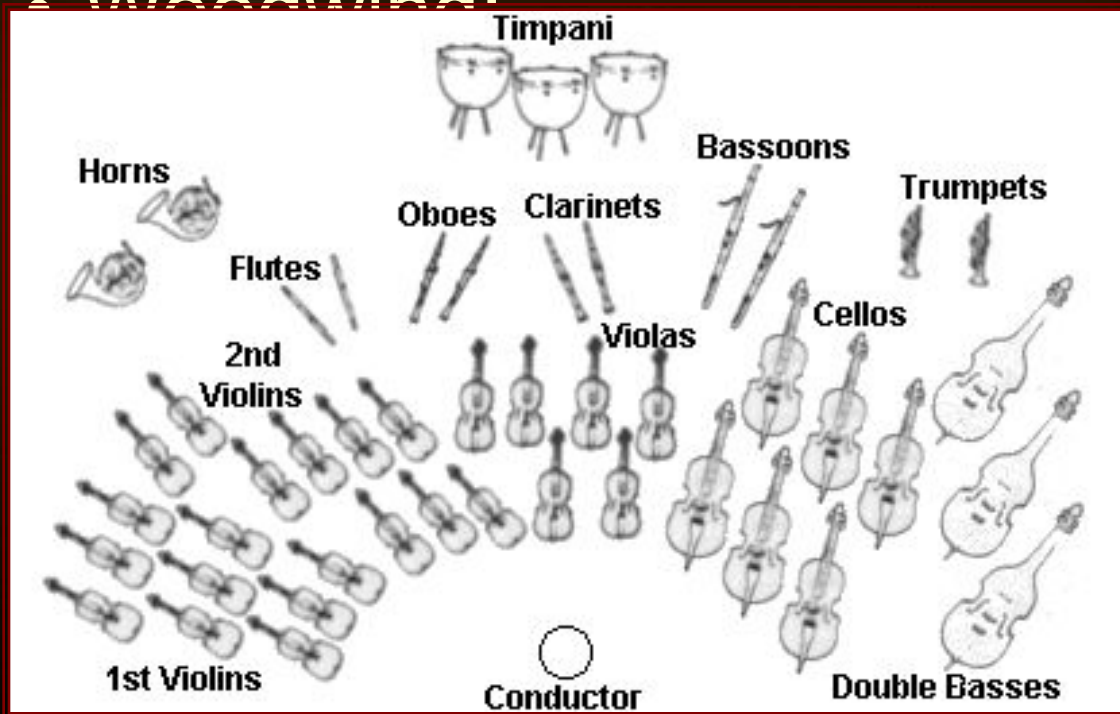


Classical Orchestra

- **Strings:**

- Violins, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses

- **Woodwind:**





Orchestral Music

Symphony

- The Symphony was an emerging style of composition for an Orchestra.
- The symphony was usually written in four movements
- No soloist and no voices.
- The movements took the following format:

Movement 1 – Fast

Movement 2 – Slow

Movement 3 – Minuet & Trio

Movement 4 – Fast



Haydn
Symphony No 104 — D major

Listen carefully for the following features

- Timpani rolls at beginning
- Arco Strings
- Question and Answer
- Contrasting dynamics
- Repetition of theme



Solo Concerto

In the Classical period the solo Concerto emerged and was written for an Orchestra and one important solo instrument.



The main features of the Solo Concerto:

- Orchestra
- 1 Solo Instrument
- Question and Answer between orchestra and soloist
- Use of Imitation between orchestra and soloist
- The Cadenza where the soloist gets to show off their skills and can be allowed some degree of Improvisation within this.

Movement 1 – Fast,

Movement 2 – Slow,

Movement 3 – Fast

Mozart
Piano Concerto No 9 - E major

Listen carefully for the
following features

- Ascending sequence
- Question & answer
between piano and
orchestra
- Trills
- Imitation
- Time signature?



Chamber Music



- Chamber Music is music written for a small group of musicians and intended to be played in a room (chamber) rather than a large Concert Hall.
- There were various groups of musicians which Chamber music was written for such as a Quartet or a Quintet.
- In the Classical period the most popular group written for was the String Quartet, Haydn wrote many of these ensembles. The String Quartet used the following instruments;

1st Violin
2nd Violin
Viola
Cello



Beethoven
String QRT No 11 — F minor

Listen carefully for the following features

- Tempo is Allegro
- Simple Time
- Repetition of opening theme
- Arco Strings



Minuet and Trio

The Minuet and Trio was an extension of this form in the Classical period and involved the addition of the Trio which was basically a 2nd Minuet.



- The Minuet and Trio has the following features:
 - A graceful French dance
 - 3 beats in the bar
 - Ternary Form





Scherzo



- A lively movement (a 'joke')
- Triple time
- Usually found as 3rd movement in a symphony, sonata or chamber work.

Overture



- Orchestral music which introduces a large scale work such as Opera or Oratorio
- Listen carefully for the concepts as they appear on the screen
 - Repetition of opening theme on strings
 - Allegro Tempo
 - Question and Answer between woodwind instruments
 - Counter melody on flute

Alberti Bass



- As we have already discovered the Piano was the Keyboard instrument of choice during the Classical period. Many composers wrote Piano Sonatas for solo piano as well as using the piano as the solo instrument in a Solo Concerto.
- A common feature in both was the use of the Alberti Bass in the left hand of the piano part. This involved alternating between the notes of the chord. For example, if the chord is C the notes which could be used are C, E and G. They would be played in the following order:



- Played on piano in the left hand



- Alternates the notes of the chord
 - E.g C E G in the order C G E G
- Common feature of the Sonata and Solo Concerto



Sonata



- Work for solo piano
or
- Solo instrument plus piano
- Both parts are technically demanding
- Listen out for the Alberti Bass

Forms

- Sonata form
- Minuet and trio
- Theme and variation
- Rondo





Sonata Form



- Sonata form has 3 main sections:
- Exposition
- Development
- Recapitulation

Exposition

The main tune (Subjects) are played for the 1st time. There are usually 2 subjects, one in the Tonic key and the 2nd in the Dominant key.

Development

Composer develops or changes the subjects in different ways with the use of frequent modulations.



Recapitulation

The Subjects are played again with the 2nd subject in the Tonic key

Exposition



- First subject (tonic)
- Bridge (modulating passage)
- Second subject (related key eg dominant)
- Often the exposition is marked with repeats

Development



- Composer 'develops' ideas from the exposition
- Moves through many keys eventually working back to the tonic in preparation for the

Exposition



- Repeats or 'recapitulates' music from the exposition
- First subject (tonic)
- Bridge (altered)
- Second subject (tonic)
- Coda finishes off the movement

Theme and Variation



- The 'theme' is the main melody
- A 'variation' of this theme is when the composer plays the main melody again but has slightly altered it.
- The 5 main ways to vary a theme
 1. The melody
 2. The Rhythm
 3. The Time-Signature
 4. The Harmony
 5. The Tonality

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



Zwölf Variationen in C

über das französische Lied "Ah, vous dirai-je Maman"
KV 365 (300#)

Endstanden, wahrscheinlich Paris, 1778

Thema

The image shows the musical score for the first two systems of 'Twelve Variations in C' by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The first system is labeled 'Thema' and the second system is labeled 'Endstanden, wahrscheinlich Paris, 1778'. The score is written for piano in C major, 3/4 time. It features a treble and bass staff with various musical notations including notes, rests, and bar lines. The first system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second system begins with a repeat sign and continues with the musical notation.

Rondo Form



- The main theme 'A' is repeated after each new section of music.

A

B

A

C

A