

CLASSICAL MUSIC 1750 - 1800

Write down these characteristics!

- ▣ A less complicated texture than Baroque times (less Polyphonic/more homophonic)
- ▣ More use of Dynamics.
- ▣ Elegant
- ▣ Question & Answer phrases
- ▣ Clear use of phrasing (musical sentences)
- ▣ CADENCES!!!!!!
- ▣ The replacement of the Harpsichord with the Piano
- ▣ Less use of Continuo
- ▣ The use of Alberti Bass in Piano music
- ▣ The cadenza!

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?

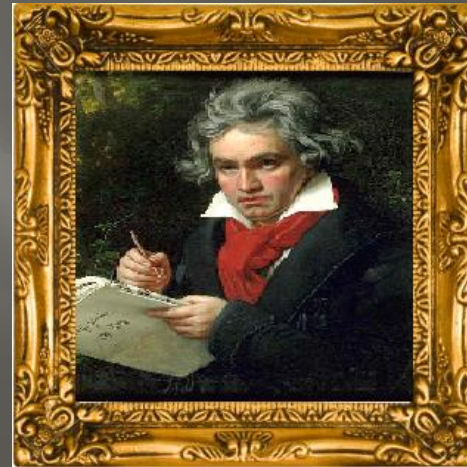
Composers



Mozart: 1756-1791



Haydn: 1732-1809

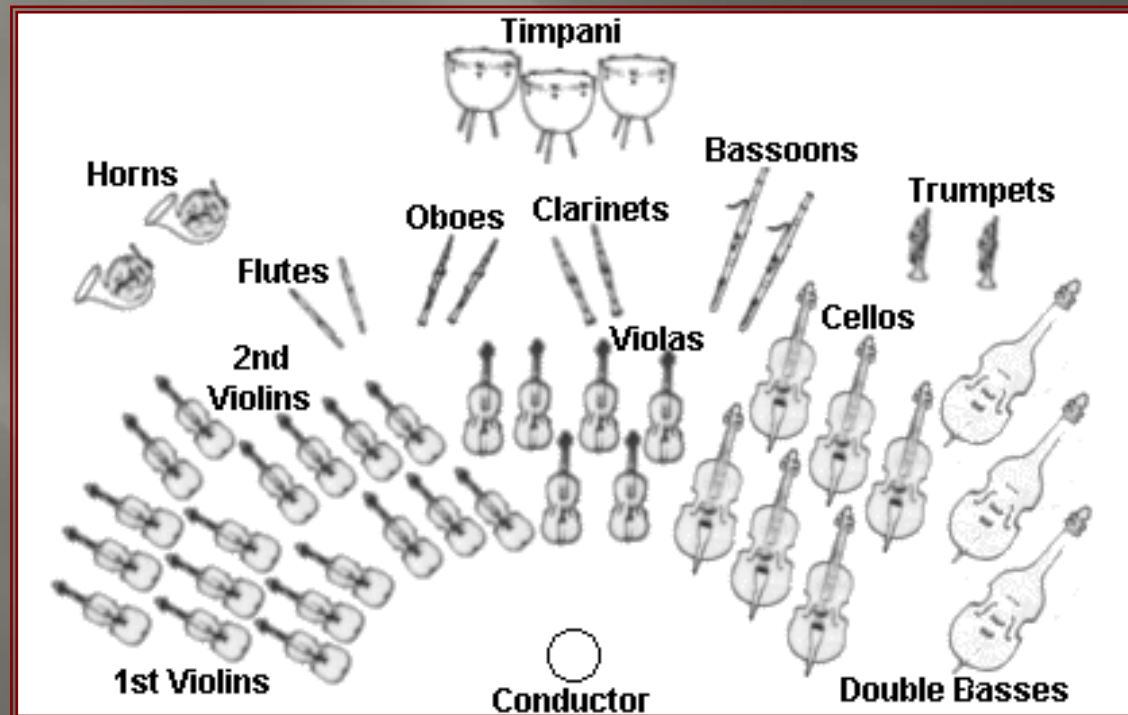


Beethoven: 1770-1827

Classical Orchestra

How does this compare to the Baroque Orchestra?

□





Instruments of the Classical Period

- # Modern Flute
- # Clarinet (not in Baroque)
- # French Horn
- # Valved Trumpet
- # Trombone
- # Percussion
- # Piano (not in Baroque)

Modern Flute



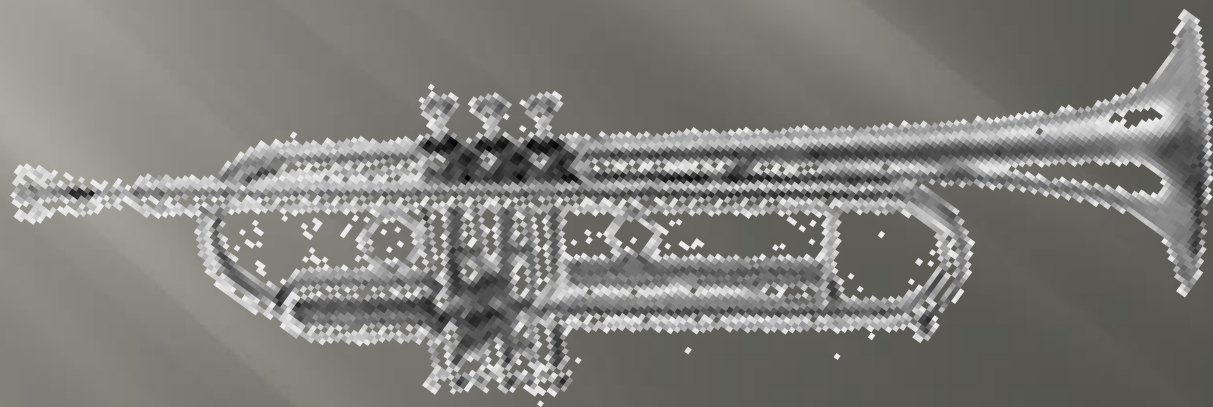
Clarinet



French Horn



Valved Trumpet



Trombone



Percussion



Piano



Opera

An opera is basically a musical play with all of the words sung instead of spoken.

Famous operas written in The Classical period:

The Magic Flute

The Marriage of Figaro

Don Giovanni

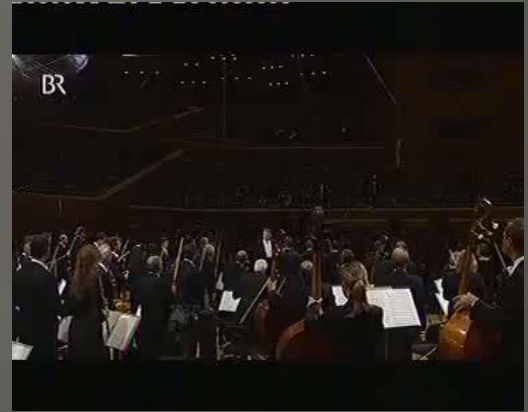
All of these operas were written by Mozart.
Beethoven, Haydn.



Symphony

A classical
piece of music for
an orchestra

Haydn
Symphony No 104 – D major



Listen carefully for the following features

- ▣ Timpani rolls at beginning
- ▣ Arco (using the bow) Strings
- ▣ Question and Answer phrases (like call and response)
- ▣ Contrasting dynamics (**use of crescendos unlike the Baroque period**)
- ▣ Repetition of theme

Solo Concerto

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

- ▣ An important part of the concerto was the CADENZA
- ▣ The Cadenza is where the soloist gets to show off their skills and can be allowed some degree of Improvisation within this.

Mozart

Piano Concerto No 9 -

E major



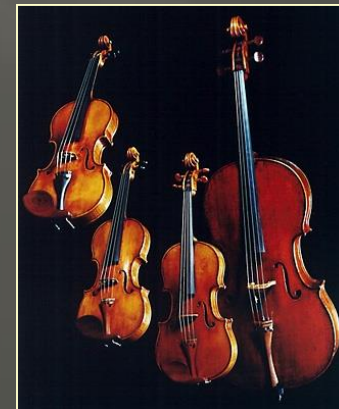
Listen carefully for the following features

- ▣ 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.
- ❑ 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 Quartet No 11 - F



Listen carefully for the following features

- ▣ Tempo is Allegro. What does Allegro mean?
- ▣ Simple Time. What is the time signature?
- ▣ 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

A stylized musical notation symbol, resembling a treble clef with a sharp sign, enclosed in a dark red box.A stylized musical notation symbol, resembling a bass clef with a flat sign, enclosed in a dark red box.A stylized musical notation symbol, resembling a treble clef with a sharp sign, enclosed in a dark red box.

Alberti Bass

- ▣ The Piano was the Keyboard instrument of choice during the Classical period.
- ▣ A common feature 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:

A musical staff in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains four quarter notes: C (middle C), G (below staff), E (below staff), and G (below staff). The second measure contains four quarter notes: C (middle C), G (below staff), E (below staff), and G (below staff). Brackets are placed under the notes in each measure to indicate the chord structure.

C G E G C G E G

Sonata

- ▣ Work for solo piano
- or
- ▣ Solo instrument plus piano
- ▣ Listen out for the Alberti Bass

Forms

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

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



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Zwölf Variationen in C

über das französische Lied *Ah, vous dirai-je Maman*
KV 265 (300)

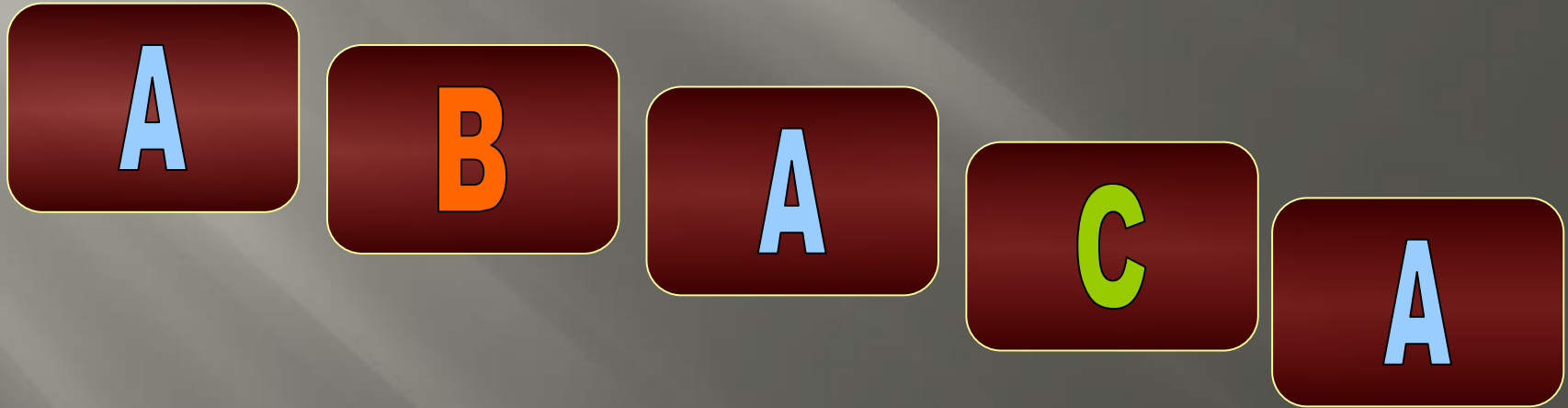
Entstanden wahrscheinlich Paris, 1778

Thema

The image shows the first two systems of the musical score for 'Zwölf Variationen in C'. The first system is labeled 'Thema' and the second system is labeled '12'. Both systems are in C major and 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef with piano accompaniment. The notation includes notes, rests, and bar lines, with some notes marked with '12' and '13'.

Rondo Form

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



Conclusions

- # By 1825, the modern orchestra was almost fully in place (except for the tuba and low woodwinds).
- # Many famous pieces of music were written, including symphonies and operas.
- # Music had become more STATELY, ELEGANT and REFINED, compared to the busy polyphonic music of the Baroque period.