

IV CHAPTER IV THE CLASSICAL PERIOD

The Classical Style (1750-1820)

a. Characteristics of the Classical Style

1. **Contrast of Mood** – may change gradually or suddenly.
2. **Rhythm** – wealth of rhythmic patterns.
3. **Texture** – predominantly homophonic
4. **Dynamics** – widespread use of *crescendo* / *decrescendo*.
5. The **piano** replaces the harpsichord.

b. Classical Forms – *Sonata-Allegro* the predominant form

1. Sonata Form (**Sonata Allegro**) (ABA')

i. divided into 3 main sections:

Exposition: 1st Theme & 2nd Theme (repeated)

Development: New treatment of themes, modulations to different keys.]

Recapitulation: 1st Theme & 2nd Theme (same key)

2. **Theme and Variation (A1 A2 A3 A4 etc.)**

Theme / variation #1 / variation #2 / variation #3 / variation #4 etc

3. **Minuet and Trio (ABA)**

Minuet / Trio / Minuet

4. **Rondo (ABACABA)**

Theme / section 1 / Theme / section 2 / Theme / section 1 / Theme

5. The Classical Symphony

- an extended orchestral piece consisting of 4 movements

1st Movement – fast and in Sonata form

2nd Movement – slow and in Sonata, ABA or Theme & Variation forms

3rd Movement – moderate and in Minuet / Trio or scherzo form

4th Movement – fast and in Sonata or Rondo forms.

6. Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) b. Rohrau, Austria (Patronage System)
Major contributions: 104 Symphonies & 68 string quartets
Created the symphony & string quartet – “Father of the String Quartet & the Symphony”
Employed by the Esterhazy family, a rich and powerful Hungarian noble family for which he worked for the next 30 years.
His usual work load each week was to present 2 concerts and 2 operas as well as daily chamber music.
7. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) b. Salzburg, Austria (Patronage then freelance)
Major contributions: 41 symphonies, 27 piano concerti and 3 operatic masterpieces
Greatest boy prodigy , started playing and writing at age 4.
He wrote a symphony at age 8, an oratorio at age 10 and an opera at 11 & toured throughout Europe with his dominant father through the age 15.
At age 25 he broke away from Salzburg and stayed in Vienna as a freelance musician.
Commissioned by an anonymous visitor to write a requiem mass which he began to believe was being written for himself.
8. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) b. Bonn, Germany (freelance)
Major contributions: 9 symphonies, 5 piano concerti and 32 piano sonatas
He spent his whole life as a free-lance musician.
Would play so hard he would break strings on the piano.
Began to go deaf, considered suicide. As his hearing decreased his creative output increased
He was the bridge to the Romantic period.

