



# The Classical Period

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1750-1820



# Enlightenment

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- The Age of Reason
  - Scientific theories as opposed to religious
  - Human reason over superstition
  - Rise of secular music
  - Middle class audience vs. nobility
    - Belief that art and music should be for everyone
    - Concerts
    - Music lessons more common
      - Employment for music teachers
  - Influence on composers
    - Wrote music that was logical, intelligent, balanced and embraced reason



# Opera

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- Native languages used
- Public theaters
- France
  - “Opera comique”
- England
  - Lightweight operas with spoken dialogue, composed in a simple and tuneful style
- Germany
  - *Singspiel*
- Italy
  - New forms of comic opera



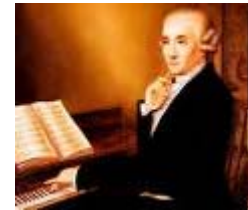
# Sonata Form

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- A B A form
  - Exposition
  - Development
  - Recapitulation
- Lead to the development of the Symphony
  - 3 contrasting movements
- Symphony orchestra

# Franz Joseph Haydn 1732-1809

- Employed by Prince Esterhazy
  - Assorted duties
- Prolific composer
  - 106 Symphonies, 68 string quartets, 60 piano sonatas, 25 operas, 4 oratorios and countless other pieces.
- Known as “Father of the Symphony”
- Most famous work
  - Surprise Symphony (no. 94)



# Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

## 1756-1791

- Child prodigy
  - Perfect pitch
  - At age four telling court musicians when they were out of tune.
  - Wrote his 1<sup>st</sup> symphony at age 6 “Symphony no. 1”
- Employment
  - Child
    - Performed musical show with sister Nannerl
  - Youth
    - At age 13 to 25 worked for the Archbishop of Salzburg
  - Adult
    - Freelance musician
- “The Most Natural Musician”
  - Virtuoso pianist
  - Gifted composer
- Famous work
  - The Magic Flute
  - No poor works



# Ludwig van Beethoven

1770-1827

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- Works transitioning toward Romantic
  - Emotional
- Freelance musician
  - Many wealthy patrons
- Began to lose his hearing
- Famous work
  - Fifth Symphony

