

Music of the Classical Era

1730-1820

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- **The name “Classical” is applied to the time period. People were taking an interest in the classical artistic and literary heritage of Greece and Rome.**
- **This era is also known as the Age of Enlightenment**

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- **Public concerts became an important part of the musical scene.**
- **Music was still being composed for the church and the court, but public concerts reflected the view that music should be written for the enjoyment and entertainment of the common person**

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- **Emotional aspects of the music were carefully controlled by the composer.**

Types of Classical Compositions

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- **Concerto**-a musical composition for a solo instrument or instruments accompanied by an orchestra, especially one conceived on a relatively large scale.
- **Sonata**-a composition for an instrumental soloist, often with a piano accompaniment, typically in several movements with one or more in sonata form.

Characteristics of Classical Music

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TIMBRE: The symphony orchestra was organized into four sections - strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. The harpsichord was seldom used.

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Homophonic-One melody with accompanying parts moving in the same rhythm as the melody.

Music Began to look more like THIS:

1 <http://www.all-music-sheets.com>

MENUET

BWV Anh. 113

BACH

The image displays a musical score for the Minuet in Anna Bach's Notebook for Anna Bach (BWV Anh. 113). The score is presented in two systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system shows the beginning of the piece, featuring a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. The second system continues the piece, showing more complex rhythmic patterns and fingerings in both hands. The score is set in 3/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat).

And less like THIS:

Alleluia Ps 67: 18, 19

VIII

A L- le- lú- ia. F. Dó-

mi-nus in Si-na in san- cto, ascén-dens in al-

tum, capti- vam du-

xit capti- vi- tá- tem.

During this time:

In 1732 George Washington was born



During this time:

1752 Benjamin Franklin proves that lightning is electricity



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- Increased volume and variety of manufactured goods



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- Louisiana purchase, 1801