



PART IV: The Classical Era c. 1750 1827

Reaction against the elaborate complexity of the Baroque

Return to the elegant simplicity of the Ancient Greeks. Melody dominated textures

'Buzz words': Proportion, Balance, Symmetry, Elegance, Poise

Availability of music to the 'common man' (i.e., not just nobility) concert halls and chamber music

Year	Composers	Forms	Instruments	Notable works	Features and Technical keywords
1750	Stamitz	Symphonies	Development of modern orchestra	Over 50 symphonies	Development of expression/dynamics and techniques such as tremolo.
1760	Gluck	Opera		Orfeo ed Eurydice	Move away from elaborate <i>da capo</i> arias to less structured forms. Shift between recit./aria dropped in favour of a more continuous style
1770	CPE Bach	Keyboard music: Sonatas	Harpsichord, Clavichord, Fortepiano		Sudden changes, strength of expression. Melody-dominated. Sonata form.
1790	Haydn	Symphonies, Chamber music (string quartets, <i>et al.</i>), Oratorios, Keyboard music (sonatas), Masses		Symphony No. 104 String Quartet Op. 75, No. 3	Sturm und Drang Range of accompaniment textures Variation form Elegant melodic lines Contrasts and changes of mood
	Mozart	Opera, Symphonies, Concertos, Masses, Chamber music, Piano music (sonatas, etc.)	Pianoforte grows in popularity	The Marriage of Figaro Piano Concerto in G K453	
	Clementi	Keyboard music (piano sonatas)			
1820	Beethoven	Symphonies, Concertos, Piano sonatas, String quartets and other chamber music		Symphony No. 3 (Eroica) Piano Sonata No. 8 (Pathetique) Fidelio	Dynamism, power, tension, emotion.