



The Classical Period (1750 – 1820)

Presented by
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Introduction

- The classical style
- The classical form
- The first Viennese school



Welcome to the Classical
period!

BUT

Let's talk about
Pre-classical period



Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788)

Strict polyphonic imitations
are dry and despicable
pieces of pedantry.

Woah bro, chill!

Johann Christian Bach (1735 – 1782)

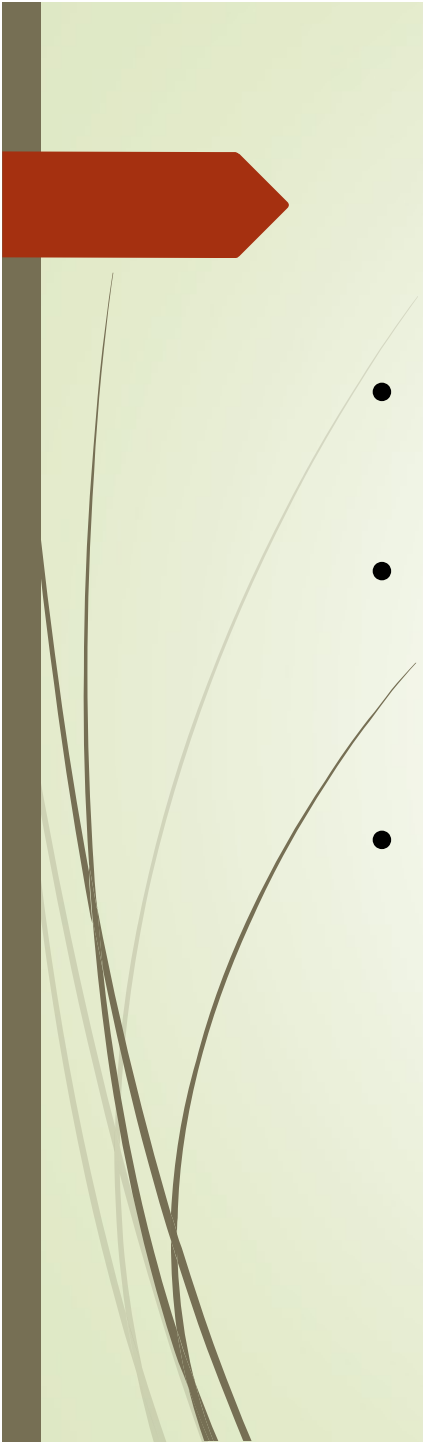




Classical period

- Known as the Age of enlightenment
 - Galileo Galilei (1564 -1642)
 - Sir Isaac Newton (1643 – 1727)
 - Voltaire (1694 – 1778)
 - Denis Diderot (1713 – 1784)



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- As the century advance, people made more money
 - During the classical period, middle-class had a great influence on music.
 - Music scores, instruments and music lessons became vastly available.



The Classical Orchestra

- A standard group of four sections: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussions:
 - **Strings:** 1st violins, 2^d violins, violas, cellos, double basses
 - **Woodwinds:** 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons
 - **Brass:** 2 French horns, 2 trumpets
 - **Percussions:** 2 timpani
- Composers exploited the individual tone colors of orchestral instrument.



Characteristics of the Classical style

- **Contrast of Mood:** Works will have great variety and contrast of mood, these changes may change gradually or suddenly
- **Rhythm:** Flexible and has more variety of rhythmic patterns.
- **Texture:** Classical music is basically homophonic. However, texture is treated flexibly.
- **Melody:** Tuneful and easy to remember.
- **Dynamics and the Piano:** Use of gradual dynamic change (Crescendo & Decrescendo); Terraced dynamics
- **The End of the Basso Continuo:** Bye Bye Basso Continuo

The first Viennese School



Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)



- Born in a tiny Austrian village called Rohrau
- Worked for Esterházy, the richest and most powerful of the Hungarian noble families
- His music is robust and direct.
- Master in developing themes: split them into small fragments to be repeated quickly by different instruments.
- Used changes of texture, key, rhythm, dynamics and orchestration to create contrast of moods



Farewell symphony & Surprise Symphony

- Symphony No.45 in F# minor
“Farewell” (1772)
- Symphony No.94 in G major
“Surprise” (1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)



- Born in Salzburg
- A genius: composed his first song at 5
- Master and used all the classical musical forms
- His music conveys a feeling of ease, grace, and spontaneity, as well as balance, restraint, and perfect proportion.
- Instrumental melodies seem to grow out of the human voice
- Dramatic and lyrical
- “must never offend the ear, but must please the hearer, or in other words, must never cease to be *music*.”



Don Giovanni (1787)

- Music guide
 - Unique blend of comic and serious opera
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Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

- Born in Bonn, Germany
- Mozart said “Keep your eyes on him; someday he will give the world something to talk about.”
- Studied with Haydn
- His hearing weakened slowly, and was total deaf at towards his final years.






- Directly reflected his **powerful, tortured personality**
- Mostly used **classical forms** and techniques
- Great tension and excitement are built up through **syncopations and dissonances**
- **Pitch and dynamics** are greater
- **Accents and climaxes** are 'titanic'
- Tiny rhythmic ideas are often **repeated**
- Larger **musical framework**



Symphony No.5/9

- Symphony No.5 in C minor, Op.67 (1804)
- Symphony No.9 in D minor, Op.125 (1822-1824)



Forms

- Classical Sonata
- Classical Concerto
- Classical Chamber Music
- Classical Symphony



Sonata Forms

- The term **sonata form** refers to the form of a *single* movement
- Used in first movement of a classical symphony, sonata/ string quartet
- There are three sections:
 - Exposition – where the themes are presented
 - Development – where the themes are treated in new ways
 - Recapitulation – where the themes return
- These 3 main sections often followed by a concluding section -> **Coda**



A single sonata-form movement may be outlined as follows:

Exposition

First theme in tonic (home) key

Bridge containing modulation from home key to new key

Second theme in new key

Closing section in key of second theme

Development

New treatment of themes; modulations to different keys

Recapitulation

First theme in tonic key

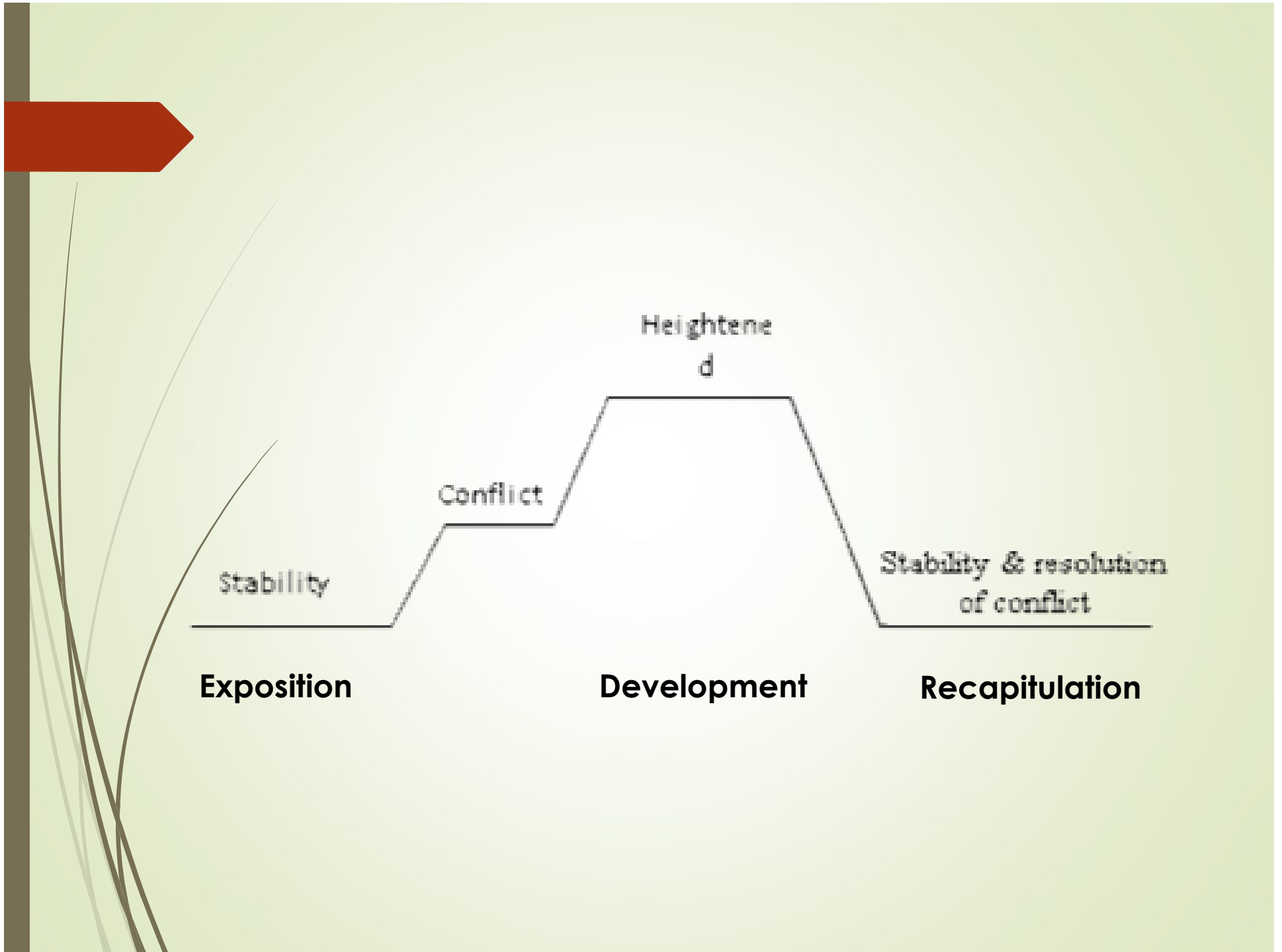
Bridge

Second theme in tonic key

Closing section in tonic key

Coda

In tonic key





Minuet & Trio

- Employed as 3rd movement of symphony, string quartet and other works
- Simplest movement in symphony / string quartet
- Minuet originated as a dance, but in a symphony and string quartet, minuet is for listening
- Triple meter
- In Moderate tempo
- A-B-A form:
 - Minuet (A) : a (repeated)-b-a' (repeated)
 - Trio (B) : c (repeated) –d-c' (repeated)
 - Minuet (A) : a-b-a'
- Beethoven used scherzo to replace minuet movement
- Similar as Minuet but move at a faster pace, generated more energy, rhythmic drive and humor.



Rondo

- Feature a tuneful main theme (A) which will return several times in alternation with other themes
- Common pattern: A-B-A-C-A & A-B-A-C-A-B-A
- Main theme (A) are usually lively, pleasing and simple to remember (In tonic key)
- Can be used as independent movement or a movement in symphony, string quartet or sonata
- Often combined with Sonata form to create Sonata-rondo

Theme and Variation

- A-A'-A''-A'''-A'''' ETC.



Classical Symphony

➤ An extended, ambitious composition.

- 1st movement: Fast, vigorous, dramatic (Sonata form)
- 2nd movement: Slow, lyrical
- 3rd movement: Dance-like, generally Minuet or Scherzo
- 4th movement: Brilliant, light or heroic, fast movement

Classical Concerto

- A **THREE** movement work featuring a **soloist** and **orchestra**
- Lasts about 20 – 45minutes long



1st movement: Fast (Sonata form: 2 expositions – orchestra and solo)

2nd movement: Slow (Any form)


3rd movement: Fast (Quick rondo/ sonata rondo)

Classical Chamber Music

- Designed for the intimate setting of a room (chamber) in a home or place
- 2 – 9 players
- Most important form in classical chamber music is the **string quartet** (2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello)

“The string quartet can be compared to a **conversation** among four lively, sensitive, and intelligent people.”



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- The string quartet consists of FOUR movements (1) fast, (2) slow, (3) minuet or scherzo, (4) fast.
 - The 2nd and 3rd movement is interchangeable
 - Other popular forms of classical chamber music are the sonata for violin and piano; piano trio; and the string quintet (2 violins, 2 violas, 1 cello)