German Classical Music

VR150 Presentation of Topic 16

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Part I

Preface

Outlines

Legends: New Terms

The new terms will be highlighted in colors, some in **English**, and some in **German**.

Example

The **car** is called **Auto** in German.

Outlines

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

- ► Professor Quanbo Xie

Part II

Introduction

Outlines

Topic

In this presentation, we will focus on the questions:

- ▶ Characteristics of German classical music
- ▶ Some German classical music composers
- ▶ Some German classical music performers and orchestras
- ▶ German musical instruments, Steiway & Sons

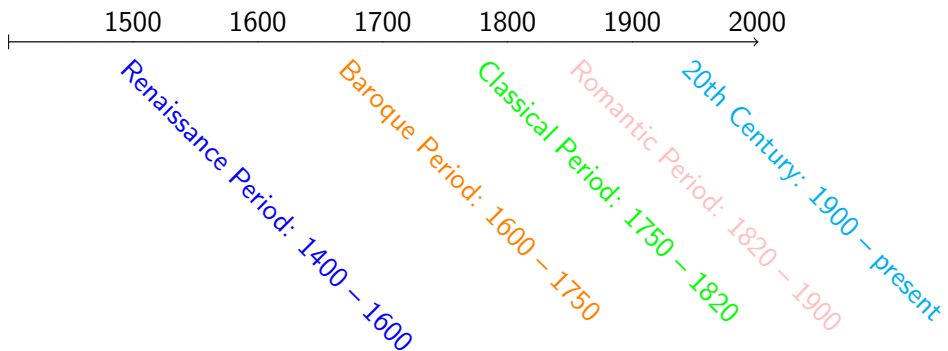# Outlines

Musical Terms

sonata	as opposed to cantata
concerto	one (or more soloists) accompanied by an orchestra
symphony	extended musical composition often for orchestra

Classical Music Periods Timeline

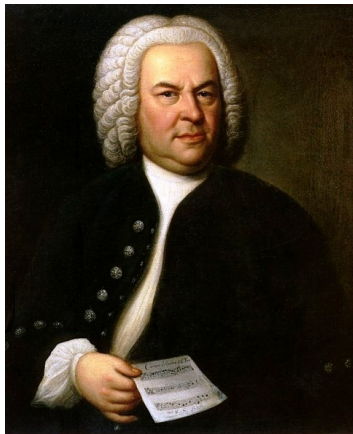Data source: [5]

Renaissance Period

1400 – 1600

Figure: **The Concert** by *Gerard van Honthorst*. [16]

Music style: breaking free from religious strictures, and great musical inventiveness.

Baroque Period
1600 – 1750

Figure: Portrait of *Johann Sebastian Bach*. [7]

Music style: more homophonic, the rise of the fugue.

Remarkable composers:

- ▶ *Johann Sebastian Bach*
- ▶ *Antonio Lucio Vivaldi*
- ▶ *George Frideric Handel*
- ▶ . . .

Classical Period

1750 − 1820

Figure: Portrait of *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*. [9]

Music style: more ordered forms and strict rules.

Remarkable composers:

- ▶ *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*
- ▶ *Joseph Haydn*
- ▶ *Ludwig van Beethoven*
- ▶ . . .

Romantic Period
1820 – 1900

Figure: Painting of *Franz Liszt* at the piano surrounded by others. [3]

Music style: expressive, dramatic.

Remarkable composers:

- ▶ *Johann Strauss I & II*
- ▶ *Frederic Chopin*
- ▶ *Robert Schumann*
- ▶ *Franz Liszt*
- ▶ *Richard Wagner*
- ▶ *Johannes Brahms*
- ▶ *Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky*
- ▶ . . .

Part III
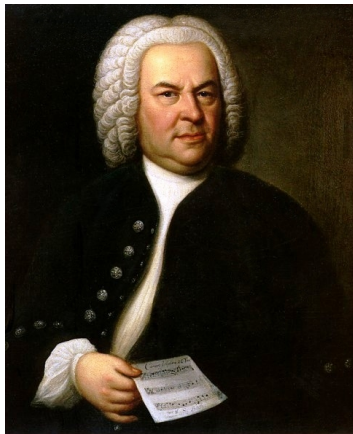
German Classical Music

Outlines

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685 – 1750

Figure: Portrait of *Johann Sebastian Bach*. [7]

- ▶ absorbed many other musical styles
- ▶ applied **Well temperament**

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770 – 1827

▶ innovations and breakthroughs in music forms
▶ pushed the transitions from Classical period to Romantic period
▶ fight against his deafness

I will seize fate by the throat; it shall certainly never wholly overcome me.

L.v. Beethoven's Early Years
1792 – 1802

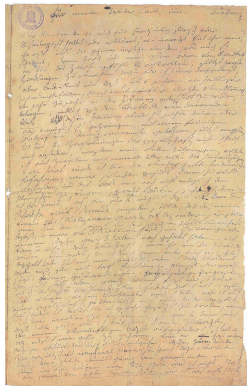Figure: *L.v. Beethoven* in 1801. [11]

Beethoven left Bonn (his birthplace) for Vienna, and became a student of *J. Haydn*.

- ▶ piano sonata no.8, Op.13, "Pathétique"
- ▶ piano sonata no.14, Op.27 No.2, "Moonlight Sonata"

L.v. Beethoven's Middle Period

1802 – 1812

Figure: A facsimile of the Heiligenstadt Testament. [14]

Beethoven suffered from his increasing deafness, he wrote a letter which recorded his despair and thoughts of suicide at an Austrian town *Heiligenstadt* to his brothers, but ended up never sended. The letter was discovered after Beethoven's death, and known as **Heiligenstadt Testament**.

L.v. Beethoven's Middle Period
1802 – 1812

Figure: Titlepage of the **Eroica Symphony**, with the name "Bonaparte" violently erased by Beethoven. [2]

Beethoven originally dedicated his **Third Symphony, Op.55 (Eroica)** to *Napoleon Bonaparte*, However, when Napoleon crowned himself emperor, Beethoven erased the name "Bonaparte" with rage.
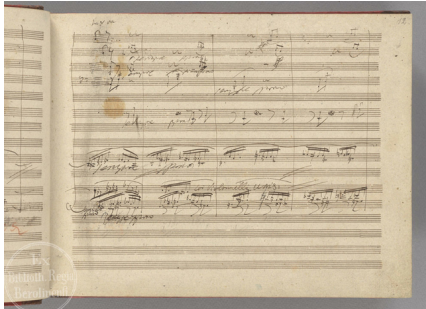
L.v. Beethoven's Later Years
1812 – 1827

Figure: A page of Beethoven's manuscript of **Symphony No.9, Op.125**. [15]

- ▶ Symphony No.9 is regarded by many people Beethoven's greatest work
- ▶ "the first example of a major composer using voices in a symphony" [18]
- ▶ the words sung were taken from a peom "Ode to Joy" written by *Friedrich Schiller*

An die Freude
Ode to Joy

An die Freude
Freude, schöner Götterfunken,
Tochter aus Elysium,
Wir betreten feuertrunken,
Himmlische, dein Heiligtum!
Deine Zauber binden wieder
Was die Mode streng geteilt;
Alle Menschen werden Brüder
Wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt.

Source: [17]

Ode to Joy
Joy, beautiful spark of Divinity[a],
Daughter of Elysium,
We enter, drunk with fire,
Heavenly one, thy sanctuary!
Thy magic binds again
What custom strictly divided;
All people become brothers,
Where thy gentle wing abides.

Source: [17]

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[a]or: of gods

Other Composers
Not Necessarily German or Austrian

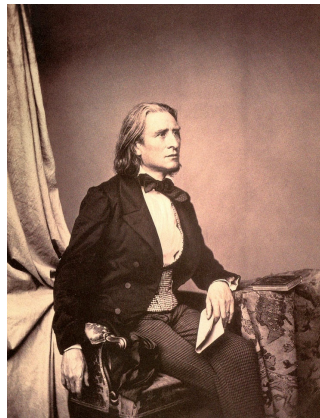Figure: Franz Schubert. [12]

Figure: Frédéric Chopin. [19]

Figure: Franz Liszt. [6]

Outlines

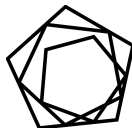# German Classical Performers and Orchestras

Figure: Julia Fischer. [4]

Figure: Anne-Sophie Mutter. [1]

Berliner Philharmoniker

Berlin, since 1882

Figure: Herbert von Karajan. [10]

Figure: Berliner Philharmoniker. [8]

Outlines

Steinway & Sons
Manhattan, since 1853

S T E I N W A Y & S O N S

Figure: Logo of Steinway & Sons.

Steinway & Sons is a German-American piano company, founded by *Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg*. The company is world-famous for its super quality.

The End

Thank you very much!

Part IV

Appendix

Outlines

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