MOZART & HAYDN

String Quartets



Early Haydn

- Opp. I, 2 (late 1750s)
 - In five movements; "lighter" style
- Opp. 9, 17, 20 (c.1770)
 - Four movements; Sturm und Drang
 - Emphasis on fugal procedures







In the 1780s...

- H&M played Quartets for fun
- Haydn (in his 50s) plays violin
- Mozart (late 20s) plays viola

Haydn's Op. 33

- Set of 6 Quartets published in 1782
- Represent a "new way of composing"
- Homophonic, but with equality of parts
- Made a big impression...



Mozart's "Haydn" Quartets

- Group of 6 quartets (including today's)
- Composed in 1782-85, apparently as an emulation of Haydn's Op. 33
- Famously dedicated to Haydn

Al mio caro Amico Haydn

In Padre, avendo risolto di mandare i suoi figli nel gran Mondo, stimò doverli affidare alla protezione, e condotta d'un Uomo molto celebre in allora, il quale per buona sorte, era di più il suo migliore Amico. L'Eccoti dungue del pari, Uom celebre, ed Amico mio carifsimo i sei miei figli. Lesi sono, è vero il frutto di una lunga, e laboriosa fatica, pur la speranza

Da questo momento, do ti cedo i miei diritti sopra di elsi: ti supplico però di quardare còn indulgenza i difetti, che l'ochio parziale di Padre mi può aver celati, e di continuar loro malgrado, la generosa tua Amicizia a chi tanto l'apprezza, mentre sono di tutto Cuore.

Amico (avifsimo Vienna il p^{mo} Settembre 1785.

il tuo Sincerfsimo Amico

W.E.L. Mozart.

To my dear friend Haydn,

A father, having resolved to send his children out into the world, thought it his duty to confide them to the protection and guidance of a very celebrated man, who was besides, by good fortune, his close friend.

Here, in like manner, great artist and my dearest friend, are six children of mine. They are, it is true, the fruit of a long and painful labor, but the hope my friends give me of seeing this labor recompensed, at least in part, encourages and flatters me that these works will one day be of some consolation to me...

From this moment I yield to you my rights over them, begging you however to look indulgently upon the defects which a father's partial eye has been unable to perceive...

Your most sincere friend, W. A. Mozart

 After hearing the quartets, Haydn told Leopold Mozart:

Before God and as an honest man I tell you that your son is the greatest composer known to me either in person or by name: He has taste, and, furthermore, the most profound knowledge of composition.



Bonus Quiz

- What are the four sections of a sonata Exposition?
- What chord is usually prolonged in the Retransition?
- Who wrote the "Haydn Quartets"?

