Zak Zuniga

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Piano III

The Classical Period

* Classical Music is music made from 1750-1820
* The best known composers from the era are Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. However other composers such as Muzio Clementi, Fernando Sor, Johann Stamitz, and Luigi Boccherini were big in the genre as well.
* Some of Beethoven’s most known works are the “Pathétique sonata Op. 13”, the “Moonlight sonata”, and the “String Quartet Op. 131”
* Haydn’s popular works would be the humorous “Surprise” symphony, and the two masterful oratorios titled “The Creation” and “The Seasons”
* Polyphonic texture was no longer the main focus of the music. Homophonic (melody was above the accompaniment) texture was all the rage. Music had become much more simpler and less complex.
* There was greater emphasis on instrumental detail, [dynamics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamics_(music)) and phrasing
* More variety in rhythms, melodies, and keys were brought out
* Melodies were much more shorter than those used in Baroque music
* Piano and fortepiano had replaced the harpsichord as the solo instrument(s) of choice
* There were stronger cadences and more tonal structure
* Not a lot of pedaling was emphasized
* Everything revolves around “the absolute” (the form)
* The size of orchestras had increased
* The sonata form was vital in being used to build up first movements
* The overall sound was much more light and airy in comparison to the seriousness of Baroque