

Glance over the article on pgs. 3-4. Write down any questions that come to your mind here:

## Classical Music Article

### Read for Meaning Questions

Read the following questions and find answers to them in the article to follow

1. What was the original meaning of the term “classical music”?:?
2. What does that term often mean now?
3. What span of time made up the classical period?
4. Name one famous classical-era composer who was still alive when the classical period ended.
5. What are three aspects of classical music?

## The Classical Period

Hey! What's going on here? We've got classical music, and now we've got the classical period. What's all this about? This is confusing!

Yes it is. And like so many confusing things, it's all the fault of history. **When the term 'classical music' was invented**, the two 'classical' things were the same. **Classical music was music from the classical period**—just like baroque music is music from the baroque period (see the [Baroque](#) page). In fact, this is what some really serious musicians still



An example of art from the late 18th century (this type of art is called 'neoclassical')

The **classical period is between the [baroque](#) and [romantic](#) periods**. This means that music from the classical period is music composed between **about 1750 to 1820**. The **greatest composers of the classical period** are

[Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#) (1756–1791).

[Ludwig van Beethoven](#) (1770–1827).

It is important to note that the **classical period ended before Beethoven died**. This is because Beethoven was the one who ended it! At the end of his life, Beethoven's music was so new that it had to be called something completely different (see the [Romantic](#) page).

Other **famous composers** of the classical period include

[Joseph Haydn](#) (1732–1809).

[Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach](#) (1714–1788) [son of the great [J. S. Bach](#)].

# So what is music from the classical period like?

Music from the **classical period** has a **particular style**. Like other styles, it is not **easy to describe**. The **best way to understand** what the style is, is to **listen to the great classical composers**—especially Mozart and Haydn.

Here are some of the common features you will hear in music of the classical period:

**A tune!** Most music of the classical period has a clear tune. There is little of the weaving together of different tunes that you get in **baroque** music. This means that music from the classical period often sounds much simpler than baroque music.

**Loud one second, quiet the next** (but not as much as **romantic** music). Music from the classical period keeps changing volume. It keeps changing in many other ways as well. You will notice these as changes of mood.

**The name!** The same names keep coming up over and over again in music of the classical period. For example, you will see lots of symphonies, sonatas, and concertos. Each of these is a style all of its own!

We will now listen to the second movement of Franz Joseph Haydn's Symphony #94, often called the "Surprise Symphony". A timer will be running on the SMARTBoard while you listen. Write down the time when you *first* notice each classical element.

\_\_\_\_\_ A tune!

\_\_\_\_\_ Loud one second, quiet the next

\_\_\_\_\_ Strong emphasis on order and reason

Why do you think this symphony is called the "Surprise Symphony"?