

The Spirit of Classicism: Haydn, Mozart, and the Enlightenment

John Gibbons

john@holdekunst.com

www.holdekunst.com



Pioneering a style of unparalleled versatility and expressiveness, Haydn, Mozart, and the early Beethoven created a musical repertory of elegance, wit, optimism, and logic that remains the benchmark of Western musical culture to this day. This class discusses the evolution and achievements of such genres as the Haydn symphonies and quartets, the Mozart concertos and operas, and the early Beethoven instrumental works in historical, social, and musical contexts. Plenty of contemporary sources are presented, along with a broad array of DVDs and CDs.

Recommended readings

Book	Author/Editor
Haydn: A Creative Life in Music	Karl Geiringer
Beethoven	Jan Swafford
Music in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	Richard Taruskin
Mozart: The Early Years 1756-1781	Stanley Sadie
The Great Haydn Quartets	Hans Keller
The Classical Style: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven	Charles Rosen
Sonata Forms	
The String Quartet: A History	Paul Griffiths
The Keyboard Music of C.P.E. Bach	Philip Barford
Mozart's Piano Music	William Kinderman
Mozart, Haydn, and Early Beethoven	Daniel Heartz



The young Beethoven visits Mozart, April 1787; Beethoven, on leave from Archbishop Maximilian Franz, stays in Vienna for two weeks). Woodcut after a painting, c. 1880, by A. Rottmann.

Week	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Classical Language • Siciliani by Haydn (1773) and Mozart (1774) • Finales by Haydn and Mozart • Transitional figures: C.P.E. Bach and J.C. Bach • “This is how it’s done!” (Haydn String Quartet, Op. 42)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozart in the single digits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mozart Amorooso ○ Mozart’s 3rd Piano Sonata ○ Excerpts from Opera and Concerto. • Haydn’s arrival at Esterhazy
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm and Stress: Haydn’s middle symphonies • C minor moods in Mozart and Beethoven: Sonata, Concerto and Symphony
4	The Sacred and the Theatrical: Religious music by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Occident and the Orient in the Enlightenment: Images of Hungary, Turkey et al in Hayden, Mozart, and Beethoven • The political dimension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hayden’s Kaiser hymn ○ Mozart’s <i>Figaro</i> and <i>Magic Flute</i> ○ Beethoven up to 1815
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melancholy and fury: F minor moods in Haydn and Beethoven • The inconsolable: Mozart’s G minor moods
7	The Public Face: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haydn Paris and London symphonies • Mozart Piano Concertos
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief look at Haydn’s oratorios “The Creation” and “The Seasons” • Transition to a new aesthetic: Beethoven at the crossroads, Schubert and his wanderers



The flute concert of Frederick the Great at Sanssouci by Adolph Menzel, 1850