

The Periods of Western Music:

Middle Ages (400-1450)
Renaissance (1450-1600)
Baroque (1600-1750)
Classical (1750-1825)
Romantic (1820-1900)
Modern (1900-now)



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

- Born in Eisenach, Germany to a musical family.
- He was the most important composer of the Baroque period.
- Wrote choral music (cantatas) for the Lutheran church, as well as many orchestral and keyboard works.
- Bach had at least 19 children, four of his sons also became composers.

Musical examples:

- *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*
- *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (Cantata No. 80)
- *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

- Born in Salzburg, Austria. His father Leopold and sister Nannerl were also musicians.
- The most gifted child in the history of music, he began composing and performing before he was five.
- Wrote important works in most every genre of the Classical period: symphony, sonata, concerto, chamber music, sacred music, comic and serious opera.

Musical examples:

- *Symphony No. 1 in E Flat Major*
- *Eine kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Music)*
... also known as the Serenade for Strings:

*“Mozart wrote the Serenade for Strings...
and he called it Eine Kleine Nachtmusik!”*





Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

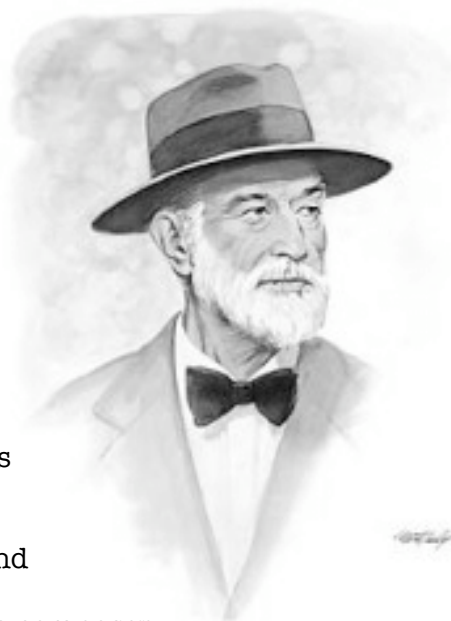
- Born in Bonn, Germany. His father and grandfather were court singers. He had to become a court musician at age 11 to help support his family.
- His music was the peak of the Classical period and it marked the beginning of the Romantic period.
- As a young man he became very sick, and eventually lost his hearing, so he began to write down the music he heard only in his mind.
- He was a genius of the symphony and the master of musical form.

Musical example:

- *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

- Grew up in Danbury, Connecticut. His father George Ives was a Civil War bandmaster and Charles' first music teacher.
- He became an accomplished organist and pianist, and went to study at Yale, where his experimental attitude got him in trouble with the conservative teachers.
- Realizing he'd never make a living writing the music he wanted to write, he became a successful and pioneering insurance executive in New York. His music didn't become well known until the 1930s, when he began to be recognized as the first great American composer of the Modern period.
- He put everything from his boyhood experience in New England into his music - from the humorous to the very serious - and refused to see any categories that would limit his freedom as a composer.



Musical examples:

- *Variations on "America"*
- *The Circus Band*

text: *All summer long, we boys dreamed 'bout big circus joys! Down Main Street comes the band, Oh! "Ain't it a grand and glorious noise!" Horses are prancing, knights advancing, helmets gleaming, pennants streaming. Cleopatra's on her throne! That golden hair is all her own. Where is the lady all in pink? Last year she waved to me I think. Can she have died? Can! that! rot! She is passing, but she sees me not.*