Music and Society
The Classical Period 3

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OLLI Spring 2021
Mozart and Haydn - similarities and differences

Mozart lived during the middle period of Haydn’s life.
The Classical Orchestra, 40-50 players

Seating plan for a standard Classical period symphony orchestra
The Classical Concerto

Written for solo instrument, e.g., piano, violin, flute, clarinet, oboe, or trumpet and orchestra

* featured virtuoso writing for soloist(s)
* three movements: fast - slow - fast
* music is melodic and pleasing
* alternation between soloist and orchestra
* the soloist and orchestra share the same material
* cadenza = improvised-sounding part for soloist
**Elvira Madigan**, Swedish movie from 1967
Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21, 2nd movement, as theme
Built on real life characters:

Hedvig Antoinette Isabella Eleonore Jensen (b. 1867),
called **Elvira Madigan**, a circus tightrope dancer

Bengt Edvard Sixten Sparre af Rossvig (b. 1854)
Swedish nobleman and cavalry officer

Sixten was already married and bankrupt

In 1889, after about one year, he killed Hedvig and then committed suicide

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8ML2SFyOuw
Elvira Madigan, Swedish movie from 1967

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Built on real life characters

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HEDVIG JENSEN,
FÖDD D. 4 DECBR. 1867,
DÖD I JULI 1888.

SIXTEN SPARRI,
LOTJNANT VID KONGL. SKÅNSKA
DRAGONREGIMENTET,
FÖDD D. 27 SEPTEMBER 1834,
DÖD I JULI 1889.
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Born in Salzburg, Austria

Father, Leopold, was a court musician, violinist, composer, teacher

Age of entertainment. Child prodigy - traveled and performed all over Europe with his older sister Maria Anna (Nannerl). Displayed at courts and salons

At 5: first published work
At 8: first symphony
At 12: first opera *Bastien and Bastienne*
At 17: masters all musical genres. Writes down Allegri’s *Miserere*, guarded property of the Vatican, from memory
Trading chard of Wolfgang and Nannerl playing for Empress Maria Theresia, mother of the later emperor Joseph II, in Vienna.
Mozart’s travels (10 years)
The Presentation of the Young Mozart to Mme De Pompadour at Versailles in 1763. The Mozart family also attends a dinner with Louis XV and Queen
In 1764, Mozart (8) and his family arrive in London

Four days later he plays for King George III and his 19 year old German wife Charlotte, who sings an aria

Also meets Johann Chr. Bach. Plays with him, studies his symphonies. When father falls ill and nearly dies, Mozart writes his first symphony

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4IXXpTHjok
At 17: becomes Court musician for the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, a fierce autocrat, stingy, unpopular

Writes all kinds of music: symphonies, concertos, operas, sonatas, string quartets, masses, motets, divertimenti

At 21: Travels with his mother to Augsburg, Mannheim, Munich, and Paris to seek employment

His mother dies in Paris. Writes the beautiful Concerto for Flute and Harp https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc6-KozGK3c

At 25: Meets the new Emperor Joseph II who gives him a part-time position and him several commissions. The Archbishop of Salzburg fires him "with a kick in the arse"

Has a big fight with his father, who does not want him to quit working for the Archbishop. Settles in Vienna
Family portrait of Nannerl, Wolfgang, and father Leopold in 1781.

Mother, music teacher - on the wall. She dies in 1778.
In 1782 (at 26) finishes his singspiel *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (The Abduction from the Seraglio). Has considerable success all over German-speaking Europe. Now an established composer
Mozart falls in love with Aloysia Weber, a famous singer. He writes arias for her, but she still does not want him. Luckily, she has a younger sister, Constanze, who does.
Constanze Weber “has two small black eyes and a good figure”

Happiest time of Mozart’s life: He is free and in love, lives in Vienna, gives concerts, has pupils, commissions and a publisher
Marries Constanze in 1782  
Six children, only two survive  

Franz (Wolfgang) and Karl Thomas  

Franz, composer, pianist, conductor, and teacher, Karl a pianist
1784: Mozart becomes a freemason

Contended that people of lowly class could be noble in spirit just as nobly born could be mean-spirited. Did lots of charitable work.

The Masonic lodge was named *Zur Wohltätigkeit* (*Benevolence*).

Wrote music for his lodge. Music is used “to spread good thoughts and unity among the members” and “unite them in innocence and joy.”
In 1785 Mozart publishes six string quartets dedicated to Haydn.

In 1782: Haydn and Mozart begin attending chamber music parties and play together.

Haydn teaches Mozart how to write string quartets.
Al mio caro Amico Haydn

La Patre, avendo voluto mandare i suoi figli nel gran Mondo, stimo 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. Eccoti dunque del pari, Uomo celebre, e Amico mio carissimo e mio figli. E se sono, e sono, il frutto di una lunga e laboriosa pena, la speranza fittammi da più Amici di soderla almeno in parte compenetrata; mi meritarebbe, mi lasciarsi, che questi parti siano per dami un giorno di qualche consolazione. In steso Amico carissimo nell'ultimo tuo che giono, in questa Capitale, me ne dimostrasti la tua soddisfazione. Questo tuo suffragio mi anima sopra tutto, perché con lui ti commando, e mi sapevo, che non ti sembreranno del tutto indegni del tuo favore. Raccomando ancora acqueidì benignamente, di essere Padre, Guida, Amico. Da questo momento, che ti cedo i miei diritti sopra di chi ti supplico per di guardare con indulgenza i difetti che l'errore parziale di Padre mi può aver colati, e di continuare loro malgrado, la generosa tua Amicizia a chi tanto l'apprezza mentre sono di tutto Cuore.

Amico carissimo
Vienna il 3° settembre 1785.

il tuo Amico carissimo
To my dear friend Haydn

...During your last stay in this capital you yourself, my very dear friend, expressed to me your approval of these compositions. Your good opinion encourages me to offer them to you and leads me to hope that you will not consider them wholly unworthy of your favor. Please then receive them kindly and be to them a father, guide and friend!

From this moment I surrender to you all my rights over them. I entreat you, however, to be indulgent to these faults which may have escaped a father’s partial eye, and, in spite of them, to continue your generous friendship towards one who so highly appreciates it. Meanwhile, I remain with all my heart, dearest friend, your most sincere friend.

W.A. Mozart

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BS_rG_XZ0Y
1786: Wrote the hilarious *Der Schauspieldirektor* (The Impresario)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rcfKTZCak

Monsieur Buff
Madame Herz (Hart) sung by Aloysia Weber, Mademoiselle Silberklang (Silversound), and Herr Vogelsang (Birdsong)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVlrs_DQzGk

I'm unsurpassed by any singer!
Mozart’s operas (20)

* *The Marriage of Figaro, 1786* opera buffa

* *Don Giovanni, 1787* dramma giocoso

* *Cosi fan tutte, 1790* opera buffa

*La clemenza di Tito, 1791* opera seria

*The Magic Flute, 1791* Singspiel

* *Da Ponte* libretti
Opera categories

* opera seria: Italian serious opera, no spoken dialogue
  (La clemenza di Tito)
* opera buffa: Italian comic opera, no spoken dialogue
  (Le nozze di Figaro)
* dramma giocoso: playful drama, no spoken dialogue (Don Giovanni)
* Singspiel: German light opera with spoken dialogue (The Magic Flute)
* operetta: opera with light subject matter, spoken dialogue
  (The Merry Widow)
* tragédie lyrique: French serious opera, no spoken dialogue
  17th C. Includes ballet. (Lully’s Armide)
* opéra comique: humanistic opera with spoken dialogue.
  Includes ballet. (Carmen)
* intermède: Italianate comic opera with ballet performed between the
  acts of a serious play or opera (The Village Soothsayer)
Mozart’s late operas are influenced by Gluck’s “reform opera”

* arias have all forms
* choruses and ensembles
* arias, choruses, and recitative carry the plot
* naturalistic and expressive
  * orchestra more independent and substantial than earlier

Music more important than words
Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838)

1770: Professor of Literature in Veneto
1773: Catholic Priest
Mistress and two children
1779: Charged with “public concubinage” and “abduction of a respectable woman”
1781: Introduced to Antonio Salieri Librettist at the Italian Theater, Vienna
Met and collaborated with Mozart
1792: Moved to London, then fled to US
1805: Professor of Italian Literature at Columbia University
1825: Produced first full performance of Don Giovanni in the US
1833: Founded the first opera theater in the US, the Italian Opera House
Susanna and Figaro, Marcellina and Bartolo get married. To trap the Count, the Countess dresses as Susanna; Susanna dresses as Countess; Figaro woos the “Countess;” Count gets furious with “Countess,” will not forgive her; the Count woos “Susanna”; is exposed, asks for forgiveness. The Countess forgives him. **HAPPY ENDING!**

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**Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)**

- **Susanna**: very smart and cunning
- **Figaro**: not so smart
- **Susanna**: serves as Countess
- **Figaro**: serves as Count
- **Countess Almaviva**: unhappy due to her husband’s many affairs. She and Susanna make a plan to trap the Count
- **Count Almaviva**: wants to marry Figaro
- **Marcellina**: wants to marry Figaro
- **Bartolo**: once had an affair with Susanna and Figaro
- **Basilio**: music master, intrigue maker
- **Cherubino (17)**: in love with all women, incl. the Countess and Susanna
- **Older generation**: Marcellina and Bartolo get married, they are Figaro’s parents!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZpZ00woAmA

The whole opera. STELLAR CAST! with subtitles

Sextet from The Marriage of Figaro
Two not-so-good years in Mozart’s life

1787:  His father becomes seriously ill and dies (May)
       Has to move to cheaper apartment
       Elected chamber composer, but with very little pay
       Third son dies

Premiere of Don Giovanni in Prague. A huge success
Suffering from depression

1788:  Has to move again
       Daughter Theresia dies
       His wife Constanze is seriously ill
       He is in his worst financial crisis ever. Pleads with everyone for money
       Premiere of Don Giovanni in Vienna. Not a success
Yet still: Within six weeks in summer of 1788, he composed:

Symphony No. 39
Symphony No. 40 in G minor
Symphony No. 41 (his last symphony)

Mozart never heard the symphonies performed, and never got paid for any of them

Symphony No. 40 reflects his desperate mood. All movements are in the minor key. No trumpets, no timpani.
Mozart symphony No. 39 (1788)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44LRfzR5sYY
Don Giovanni 1787

Don Juan is an antihero who seduces every woman in sight, defies God, and is dragged down to hell. No redeeming features.

Familiar story all over Europe from folktales and ballads to street performances and puppet theaters.

The first known written version is the Spanish *The Trickster of Seville* or *The Guest of Stone*

The story was set by everybody. Mozart borrowed the finale from Gluck’s ballet pantomime *Don Juan* Da Ponte borrowed from Molière’s comedy *Dom Juan*.

Da Ponte had two life models for Don Juan, himself and Casanova
Giacomo Casanova (1725 – 1798)

Cleric, theatre violinist, army officer, gambler, diplomat and spy, go-between and ‘fixer,’ financier and lottery promoter, Freemason and occultist, prolific author and translator of the *Iliad*. Often running from the police. Spent his last dozen years in hiding at Count von Waldstein’s château in Bohemia. Friend of Lorenzo da Ponte’s. Attended the premiere of Don Giovanni and gave some advice regarding the libretto.
Don Giovanni dramma giocoso (playful drama)
a mixture of opera seria and opera buffa

Don Giovanni
the world’s greatest womanizer

Leporello
his frustrated servant

Donna Anna engaged to Don Ottavio (opera seria characters)

Donna Elvira seduced by Don Giovanni (mix opera seria and buffa)

Zerlina to be married to Masetto (opera buffa characters)

Opening: Don Giovanni tries to seduce Donna Anna, then murders her father. Donna Elvira, abandoned, seeks revenge. Don Giovanni is tired of her and tries to seduce the peasant girl Zerlina before her wedding to Masetto, but Donna Elvira interferes. She still loves the Don, who forces Leporello to switch identity with him; Elvira is seduced again. Everybody wants to frame Don Giovanni, who hides in the churchyard where the statue of Il Commendatore, Donna Anna’s father, speaks to him. The Don invites him for dinner. He accepts. Il Commendatore wants Don Giovanni to repent. He denies and is dragged to hell. HAPPY ENDING
La ci darem la mano from Don Giovanni

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJnJjpMdT3Y
My dear lady, this is the list
Of the beauties my master has loved,
A list which I have compiled.
Observe, read along with me.
In Italy, six hundred and forty;
In Germany, two hundred and thirty-
one;
A hundred in France; in Turkey, ninety-one;
But in Spain already one thousand and three.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INF9r5jju0A
From Peter Sellars' production of Don Giovanni where the identical twins Herbert Perry and Eugene Perry sing the roles of Don Giovanni and Leporello. The opera is set in Harlem and Don Giovanni is a drug addict.

Peters Sellars Don Giovanni

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olivCsXZl3w
Don Giovanni Final scene Ramey, Moll

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHSPT6LRDx4
Alfonso to the boys: I bet you can pretend to leave, come back in disguise, and, within 24 hours, seduce your own fiancée. NEVER!

Boys tell girls that they have to join the army. Girls are

The boys return disguised as “Albanians.” They take “poison” to win the girls. The girls decide that a little cheating would not hurt - and fall in love with each other’s fiancés.

SUMMARY: Within 24 hours, the boys have left for the army, returned as “Albanians,” taken “poison”; Despina has acted as waitress, cook, counselor, doctor, and lawyer; the lovers have switched partners, fallen in love, and married their new partners; the boys have returned from the army, returned to their original partners, and gotten married again!

COSI FAN TUTTE!
The Magic Flute

*Singspiel* = a mixture of song and spoken words

Sung in the local language, here German

Prince Tamino is saved from a serpent by the Three Ladies of the Queen of the Night

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWIK2goT2Ew

Most of the pictures from Bergman’s movie *Trollflöjten* (The Magic Flute) 1975

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufQxByt7dNM
Prince Tamino is saved from the serpent by Three Ladies sent by the Queen of the Night
They ask Tamino to rescue the Queen’s daughter Pamina from her evil father Sarastro. As a reward she will be his bride.
The Queen of the Night. Stage set for Mozart’s The Magic Flute, 1815
They show Tamino a picture of Pamina. He falls in love with her at once.
The bird-catcher Papageno turns up. He will help Tamino find Pamina.

As aid, Tamino gets a magic flute and Papageno magic silver bells.
Tamino and Papageno are separated. Papageno finds Pamina, whom he tries to rescue from the Queen’s evil slave Monostatos.
We suddenly learn the Queen of the Night is bad and Sarastro is good!

The Queen enters and tells Pamina that she has to kill her father.
Tamino has walked into Sarastro’s temple and decides to join the temple order.

Sarastro’s brotherhood (of freemasons?)
Before Tamino can become a member, he has to prove worthy by going through a series of initiation trials. He has to be speechless. Papageno comes along only by being promised a bride, Papagena.
The hardest trial is letting Tamino see Pamina, but not letting him speak to her. She believes he doesn’t love her, is devastated, and wants to die. Sarastro feels sorry for Pamina and lets her follow Tamino through his final trials.
The Queen of the Night rushes in to destroy the temple, but is defeated. Sarastro asks the gods to grant wisdom to Pamina Tamino and welcomes them to join his temple order. And Papageno gets his Papagena. **HAPPY ENDING!**

The Magic Flute was an enormous success
For Mozart himself, not a happy ending

Falls violently ill with rheumatic fever on 20 November 1791

Had just gotten a commission for a Requiem. Had never written one before, and was looking forward to doing so

Only finishes the opening (Introitus). Makes sketches for most of the rest assisted by his student Franz Süßmayr. Becomes aware he is writing his own Requiem

On 4 December, gathers three soloists to sing through what he has written so far. During the Lacrymosa:

Full of tears will be that day
When from the ashes shall arise
The guilty man to be judged;

Therefore spare him, O God,
Merciful Lord Jesus,
Grant him eternal rest. Amen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaH3zI0bYkM

... Mozart breaks down in tears and they have to stop.

He dies the next evening on 5 December, 35 years old