

## Classical Period (1750-1820)

### 1. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Haydn was an Austrian composer. His father loved to sing folk songs which gave an influence on his style later on. He sang in a church choir when he was eight, but had no chance for composition or instrumental lessons. He taught himself composition and became a music director at the court later on. From his twenty-nine, he composed most of his music for performance in the palaces of the family for almost thirty years. Haydn was a pathfinder for the classical style and a pioneer in the development of symphony and string quartet. His music became popular all over Europe.

Excerpt: *The Heavens are Telling*, from the oratorio *The Creation*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "The heavens are telling the glory of God." The piano accompaniment (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like.

*The Creation* was an oratorio in three parts composed in 1798. *The Heavens are Telling* is the finale chorus of part one, praising the God in his wondrous works of creation. The chorus in the excerpt (c) is / isn't a four-part mixed-voice chorus. There are (d) two / three / four soloists in the excerpt.

### 2. W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Mozart was an Austrian composer who showed his musical gift when he was a child. He could play and improvise on the harpsichord and the violin when he was only six. He could also write minuets and read music perfectly at first sight. He wrote a symphony, an oratorio and an opera by the age of twelve. His father, who was also a musician, was understandably eager to show his son off. Therefore, Mozart spent almost half of his childhood time on tour in Europe and England. He then began his professional life as an international celebrity, pampered by king. Mozart wrote masterpieces in all the musical forms of his time, including symphonies, operas, and concertos. His music was very lyrical as he was keen on writing operas.

Excerpt I: *Symphony in G Minor*, No.40, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

This symphony was one of Mozart's last three symphonies. A quiet but agitated opening theme in the (a) violins / flutes / trumpets sets the mood for the movement.

(b) Circle the motive on the score below.



Excerpt II: *Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K.622*, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

This work was one of Mozart's final completed works in 1791, the year of his death. It was originally written for the basset clarinet, a special clarinet championed by his friend, which could play lower notes than a standard clarinet. Mozart loved the sound of the clarinet and was thus keen on writing beautiful pieces for it. In a clarinet concerto, a clarinet soloist played with the orchestra.



The movement starts with the (c) entire orchestra / clarinet soloist. Then, the (d) entire orchestra / clarinet soloist plays the main theme again.

### 3. L. v. Beethoven (1770-1827)

Beethoven was a German composer who also came from a family of musicians, like Bach and Mozart. As his father saw his talented son as a profitable prodigy like Mozart, Beethoven was roused from sleep by his father at night to keep practicing at the keyboard until morning. Beethoven had never met and improvised for Mozart when he was sixteen and received promising comment from Mozart. He had also studied with Haydn. Unfortunately, he felt the first symptoms of deafness during his twenty-ninth. His victory over despair then coincided with an important change in his musical style. He wrote nine symphonies in his life which became influential to composers after.

Excerpt I: *Symphony No.5*, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

This symphony expresses how Beethoven struggled with his deafness. The “short-short-short-long” motive interprets as “fate knocking at the door”.

(a) Circle the motive on the score below.



(b) Choose a dynamic marking that best indicates how this motive is being played.

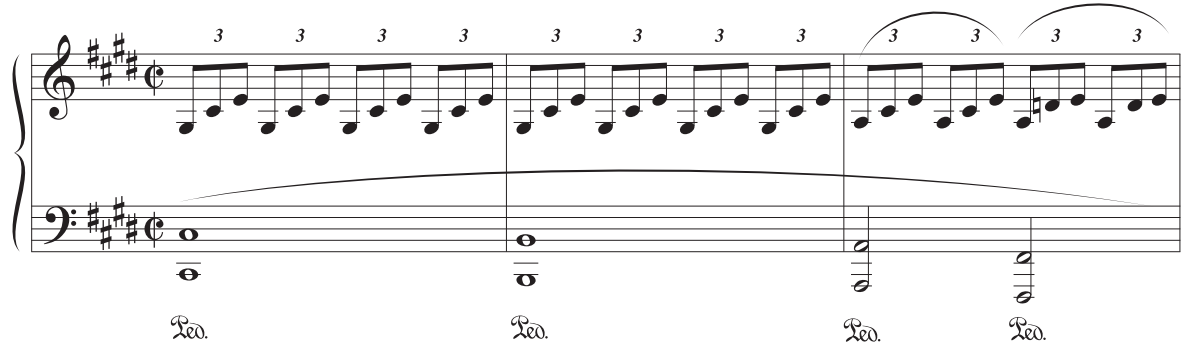
*pp*

*mp*

*mf*

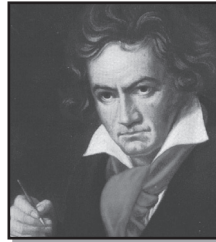
*ff*

Excerpt II: Sonata in C Sharp Minor *Moonlight*, Op.27 No.2, 1<sup>st</sup> movement



Beethoven completed this work, which was written for his pupil, in 1801. The name *Moonlight* was derived from a description of the first movement by a music critic in 1832. The piece is peaceful and sorrowful. It starts (c) softly / loudly and (d) slowly / quickly. The melody is mainly played by the (e) left hand (which plays the lower part) / right hand (which plays the upper part) of the pianist with triplet accompaniment.

Search more information about the above composers. Now, match the above composers with the portraits below. Write down their names under the portraits.



(c) \_\_\_\_\_

(d) \_\_\_\_\_

(e) \_\_\_\_\_