**The Classical Style 1750-1820**

**Society:**
- *Age of Enlightenment* - reason instead of tradition and custom: Voltaire, Rousseau
- Power shifts from aristocracy and clergy to the rising middle class - American and French Revolutions
- Art - inspired by Roman and Greek antiquity (thus "classical’), simplicity instead of artifice
- Vienna is the center of European Music.
Musicians:
worked for a noble court, a church (less renown), or freelanced (commissions, public concerts)

The Music:
Musical Style: 1730-1770 1750 - 1820
High Baroque ---> pre-classical ---> Classical
portrayal of the aristocracy: portrayal of the common person:
arrogant, even pompous nobility genuine, friendly, congenial
consistently ornate and complex contrast, clean and simple
unity of mood throughout piece, affects dramatic mood shifts, (yet restrained)
rhythm - continuity: driving varied, articulated, full stops, starts again
melody - continuity: ornate, always moving, flowing simple, catchy (popular), gestural
dynamics - constant (terraced) crescendo, decrescendo, contrasting
texture - again homogeneous. often polyphonic return to homophony (for simplicity)
consistently dense contrasting density
J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5: I
Haydn: Symphony No. 94, “Surprise”(opening)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjqGhAlFzs
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Cs_f3GupCo
- instrumental music - distinction between chamber music, orchestral music
- vocal music - opera still very popular

Pre-classical (1730-1770)

- **Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach** (1714-1788, proto-classical)
  Sturm und Drang – Storm and Stress (dramatic contrast) – *Solfeggietto*
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SXC744mPz8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SXC744mPz8)

THEN...

**Franz Josef Haydn** - 1732-1809, worked for Prince Esterhazy
  Father of the Symphony: 104 Symphonies for orchestra
  
  *Haydn: Symphony No. 94, “Surprise”, II*
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Cs_f3GupCo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Cs_f3GupCo)
  Theme and Variations

  Father of the String Quartet: 68 String Quartets for string quartet (2 violins, viola, cello)
  “Emperor” String Quartet, II
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t3Vmo_EM8Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t3Vmo_EM8Y)
  Theme and Variations

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791) who perfected the Classical Style
  Born in Salzburg 1756, father was a court musician
  Early genius recognized: *Minuet, K.1*, age 5
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgknFPVF8kM&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgknFPVF8kM&feature=related)

  Concert tours with sister Nannerl and father, Leopold Mozart
  wrote his first *Symphony, K.16* at age 8
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4IXXpTHjok](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4IXXpTHjok)