The Classical Style 1750-1820

Society:

Age of Enlightenment - reason instead of tradition and custom: Voltaire, Rousseau, Locke
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.

Pre-Classical Music (1730-1770)

Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach (1714-1788, son of J.S. Bach) proto-classical: elements of Baroque and Classical
Sturm und Drang – Storm and Stress (dramatic constrast) – Symphony No. 1 in D Major
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAzqR9BKhwM
King Louis XIV

Voltaire
Bedroom at Versailles

George Washington’s Bedroom
The Music:
Musical Style: 1730-1770 1750 - 1820
High Baroque ---> pre-classical ---> Classical
portrayal of the aristocracy:
  pompous nobility
consistently ornate and complex
unity of mood throughout piece, affects
rhythm - continuity: driving
melody - continuity: ornate, moving, flowing,
dynamics - constant (terraced)
texture - again homogeneous. often polyphonic
consistently dense

J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5: I
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjqGhAlFzs

Portrayal of the common person:
genuine, friendly, congenial
contrast, clean and simple
dramatic mood shifts, (yet restrained)
varied, articulated, full stops, starts again
simple, catchy (popular), gestural
crescendo, decrescendo, contrasting
return to homophony (for simplicity)
contrasting density

Haydn: Symphony No. 94, “Surprise” (opening)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mimSPDIAVWo

Music:
- instrumental music - distinction between chamber music, orchestral music
- vocal music - opera still very popular

Musicians:
  worked for a noble court, a church (less renown), or freelanced (commissions, public concerts)

Franz Josef Haydn - 1732-1809
  Worked for Prince Esterhazy at the Esterhazy Palace outside of Vienna
  Father of the Symphony: 104 Symphonies for orchestra
    Symphony – a multi-movement work for orchestra (3-4 movements):
      Fast
      Slow
      (Minuet and Trio)
      Fast
    - orchestral music

Symphony No. 94, “Surprise”, II (slow)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw_2Al5w-Vo
Theme and Variations

Father of the String Quartet: 68 String Quartets
  String Quartet – a multi-movement work for 2 violins, viola, and cello
    Fast
    Slow
    (Minuet and Trio)
    Fast
  - chamber music

“Emperor” String Quartet, II (slow)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvPBiI9dExs
Theme and Variations