

The Classical Era

1750-1825



What was happening around the world?

- 1751- Benjamin Franklin “discovers” electricity.
 - 1775-1781- American Revolution
 - 1781- Uranus discovered.
 - 1789- George Washington inaugurated
 - 1789-1795- French Revolution
 - 1803- The Louisiana Purchase
 - 1804- Napoleon crowns himself Emperor.
 - 1812-1814- War of 1812
 - 1822- The Rosetta Stone is deciphered
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Famous People of the Era

- King Louis XIV of France
 - Napoleon Bonaparte of France
 - George Washington of America
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What does the term Classical mean?

- From 1750 on artists, musicians, and architects wanted to get away from the strange opulence of the Baroque period and move to emulate the clean, uncluttered style of Classical Greece.
 - This period is called Classical because of that desire to emulate the works of the ancient Greeks.
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Characteristics of the Classical Period

- The Church and Monarchs were no longer the principle benefactors of the arts due to the political upheaval in Europe at the time.
 - The aristocracy were the main patrons of the arts. They wanted impersonal but tuneful music from their composers. This led to the term “absolute” music - which is music that is written for music’s sake.
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