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CLASSICAL PERIOD

In music, the time from 1750 until the early 1800s is known as the Classical Period. It was a time of great historical events, including both the French and American Revolutions. Famous people who lived during this period include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Napoleon Bonaparte and the author, Jane Austen.

Music composed during the Classical period is usually graceful and elegant. Keyboard pieces include dances such as the minuet and gigue. The piano (invented in 1709) became very popular as great composers, including Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, created works that are still loved throughout the world today. You will study their music in *Keyboard Literature*, *Book 4*.

James Hook (1746-1827)

Born in England, Hook was organist and composer at the famous Marylbone Gardens in London. He was also an excellent teacher, and his piano instruction book, *Guide to Music*, was widely used by English piano students.

Alexander Reinagle (1756-1809)

Reinagle was an English-born pianist, teacher and composer who spent most of his professional life in the United States. He was director of a Philadelphia theater company for which he wrote an opera called "Columbus," about the discovery of America. He is said to have introduced four-hand piano music to this country, and to have composed the first piano sonatas written here.

Daniel Gottlob Türk (1756-1813)

Born in the same year as Mozart, Türk was a German pianist, composer and teacher. His first teacher was his father and later he took lessons from a student of J.S. Bach. Türk was an excellent teacher who wrote a great deal of music for his piano students.

Anton Diabelli (1781-1858)

Despite his Italian name, Diabelli was an Austrian composer. He was a friend of Franz Joseph Haydn and studied with Haydn's brother, Michael. Diabelli was a popular teacher of piano and guitar. Later he started his own publishing firm and was often the first to publish the compositions of Beethoven and Schubert.

Samuel Arnold (1740-1802)

Arnold was an English organist and composer who is remembered primarily for an edition he made of Handel's music. The *Gigue* comes from a set of lessons he wrote for his harpsichord students.

Minuetto

