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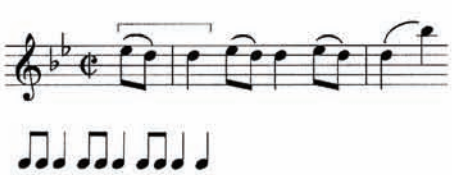
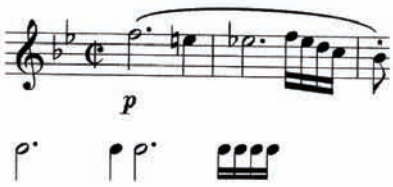
More flexible rhythm



First motif



Second motif

Classical composers thought that the driving, unchanging rhythm common to the Baroque period was boring. They preferred to write music with greater variety. Look at this illustration of the notes that make up the motifs that Mozart used in the first movement of his Symphony no.40 in G Minor. The first motif is made up largely of quarter and eighth notes all grouped the same way, and the second has contrasting longer and shorter notes, like dotted half notes and sixteenths. This kind of variation avoided the unflagging predictability of Baroque music.

Dynamics

During the Baroque period, instrumental music tended to be played at a constant level of loudness and softness. Classical composers wanted to add more variety to the volume at which their music was played. They planned that particular passages would be played at specific volumes, and it was during this period that scores began to have dynamic marks like *pp*, or *mf*, added to them, so that performers would know exactly what volume the composer wanted.

Crescendos (growing louder) and decrescendos (getting softer) also began to be written into the music during the Classical period and they added a great deal of excitement. Performers wanted their music to grow louder and softer within a single passage, the way a singer's voice can, and they began varying the dynamics more and more, shaping the different melodies they played.

Dynamic Marks		
pp = pianissimo, very soft	*mp* = mezzo piano, moderately soft	*f* = forte, loud
p = piano, soft	*mf* = mezzo forte, moderately loud	*ff* = fortissimo, very loud
Crescendo mark <	*Diminuendo/Decrescendo* mark >	

Chamber and keyboard music

Haydn wrote over 67 string quartets, 29 piano trios, and about 62 piano sonatas. In many ways, Haydn can also be called the "father of the string quartet." The string quartet was then seen as music for connoisseurs, and in them, Haydn was able to explore his ideas without having to worry about the music being too hard for the audience to understand. They are still popular today and are among the most frequently performed quartets in the literature. His piano sonatas are still part of the repertoire of every advanced piano student and many professional musicians include them in their concerts.

Haydn's Compositions

67 string quartets

29 piano trios

62 piano sonatas

SEI
SONATE
DA
CLAVI-CEMBALO
CHE
A SUA ALTEZZA SERENISSIMA
DEL
SACRO ROMANO IMPERO
PRINCIPE
NICOLO ESTERHAZY DI GALANTHA
&c. &c.
D. D. D
L'AUTORE
GIUSEPPE HAYDN
MAESTRO DI CAPELLA DELLA PRET. A S. SER.

The title page of a set of six sonatas that Haydn dedicated to Prince Nikolaus I. Notice how large the Prince's name is compared to Haydn's.

Haydn and his friends playing quartets. Haydn is on the right, turning the page. Haydn and Mozart became friends and they often played string quartets together.