

EXPLANATION 5: SYMPHONIC MUSIC DURING THE CLASSICISM

SYMPHONIC MUSIC

The classical symphony has its origins in the Baroque period. In Italy it existed as a work before the opera that was called overture. Subsequently, this overture grew in length (from 3 to 4 movements) and in content. Other initial symphonies resemble the church sonata, which began with a slow movement and continued with three more movements in the same key.

HAYDN

With Haydn the symphony practically acquired the form as we know it today: in 4 movements. He composed more than 100 symphonies. Some, the first ones, with concerto grosso techniques on violins (concertino and ripieno) as was in the baroque style. On others he showed the style "Sturm und drang" as well as the sonata form on slow movements. He used the rondo-sonata in the last movement.

Many of Haydn's symphonies have names like "The morning", "The clock", "Goodbye", "The surprise". Some of them are: n° 44, 45, 47 (Sturm und drang), n° 77 (Rondo-sonata), n° 82-87 (Period of Paris), n° 93-104 (Period of London).

MOZART

He composed 41 symphonies. In some of them the influence of Haydn is visible. Mozart admired him and even dedicated some of his works to him. In the symphonies of Mozart the following features are noticed:

- Great profusion of ideas.
- Color: more active participation of horns, oboes, flutes and clarinets.
- Symmetry.
- B themes contrasting with A themes. B themes are more lyrical.

Like Haydn, the Sturm und Drang influenced him (Symphony No. 25) as well as the Empfindsamer Stil and the Mannheim School. Some of his best symphonies of the time he spent in Vienna are the so-called Haffner, Prague, Linz and Jupiter. The last three were composed in a month and a half.

BEETHOVEN

Of all the nine symphonies that he composed only the first two are considered in classic style. Some of his contributions to this genre are:

- The extensive codas and the role given to the wooden instruments in the first symphony.
- A very extensive adagio in the first movement, as well as abundant thematic material and replacement of the minuet by a scherzo in the second symphony.

THE FORM A SYMPHONY

Since Haydn the sections (called movements) of a symphony can be generalized like this:

First movement

The symphony usually uses the sonata form in its first movement although in the case of Haydn they are usually monothematic (a single theme). The second themes sometimes appear in the development.

Second movement

- It has several structures: lied (song), sonata form, theme and variations, etc.
- It can appear in the place of the first movement.

Third movement

- It is usually a minuet that often incorporates folk elements. The part of the trio (middle part with three instruments) is where composers experimented more.
- It can appear in the place of the second movement.

Fourth movement

- They usually have the shape of a rondo or a sonata.
- Sometimes fugues appear here.
- Haydn used the rondo-sonata for the first time, that is, a mixture of the two forms. In these the development uses counterpoint.

PREGUNTAS DE COMPRENSIÓN DEL TEXTO

1. **From what two Baroque forms derives the classical symphony?**
2. **Who is the "father" of the symphony and how many did he compose?**
3. **What aspect of Baroque music is seen in some of Haydn symphonies?**
4. **Name some known symphonies of Haydn, by his opus or by his name.**
5. **How many symphonies did Mozart compose and which composer influenced some of them?**
6. **Name 3 characteristics of Mozart's symphonies.**
7. **What preclassical styles influenced Mozart's symphonies?**
8. **Name the three symphonies of Mozart that he composed in less than 2 months.**
9. **How many symphonies of Beethoven are in classical style?**
10. **Name one musical aspect of Beethoven symphonies.**
11. **First movement of a symphony: what form does it use?**
12. **Second movement of a symphony: what structures does it use?**
13. **In which part of the third movement is there more experimenting?**
14. **In which movement fugues appeared?**