

## EXPLANATION 4.1: STURM UND DRANG. INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSICISM

### STURM UND DRANG

The name "Sturm und Drang" (storm and impetus) is a German literary movement that spread to the other arts. In music, it is the extension of Empfindsamer Stil. In it, music is conceived not as entertainment but as an intense expression of feelings, of heart and soul relief. Minor tonalities are used to show somber aspects. The contrasted dynamics and the expressive silences are also used. The Sturm und Drang is for some people a late phase of the Empfindsamer Stil and happens in the 1770s. This style is recognized in works by J. Haydn (symphonies 44, 45, 47), J.C. Bach (Symphony in G minor Opus 6, n°6) and W.A. Mozart (Symphony in G minor, K.183) among others.

### CLASSICISM AND ENLIGHTENMENT

The period that begins in the second half of the XVIII and lasts approximately until 1820 is characterized in the arts for having simplicity, symmetry, proportion, balance and unity. These characteristics also apply in music, so that the musical work creates expectations in the listener that, when fulfilled, make the music understandable to a large audience. It is known as Classicism whose main representatives were Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Some of Ludwig Van Beethoven's works are included in this period.

With the Enlightenment, the peak of the applied sciences, of egalitarian rights, the freedom of the individual and universal education, the French Revolution emerged in 1789. The ideas of rationalism, which holds that man obtains true knowledge through reason, are also felt in music, thus, works are thought out with well-defined structures.

### Classic style in music

Regarding the musical characteristics, the ones that stand out, are:

- Melody with great prominence. It is singable even when it is composed for instruments. The phrases are often symmetrical. As for the shape of classical melodies these often have a very characteristic structure: 8 measures in 2 sentences of 4 measures each.
- Both rhythm and harmony are simplified in relation to the Baroque period.
- Use of regular rhythms. They create expectation in the listener, which when fulfilled makes the music understandable. Many times symmetrical rhythms and regular accents are used.
- Rise of the sonata (type of work in three or four movements) and the sonata form (type of the musical form that it is used in the first movement of the sonata).
- The abandonment of the continuo. The recitative is accompanied by the orchestra (recitativo accompagnato) instead of the harpsichord (recitativo secco).
- Predominance of instrumental music.

### Instruments

After 1790 the harpsichord declined in favor of the piano because the latter had more sound volume. The same happened to the viola da gamba which was less favored than violas and cellos. The Clarinet was included.

The orchestras grew in quantity and the string group is lighter, more dynamic and lively than in the Baroque period. The number of members used to be: 6,6 2,3,1, in first violins, second violins, violas, cellos and double basses respectively.

Woodwinds were still unstable due to mechanical transformations, they were used to vary the timbre of the strings. The concert halls got bigger and better.

Other instruments were: flutes and oboes, horns, trumpets, bassoon and timpani. Stands out the use of the string quartet in chamber music.

### COMPREHENSION TEXT QUESTIONS

1. **What is Sturm und Drang and where does it come from?**
2. **What does a Sturm und Drang musical work intend to convey?**
3. **How old does it last the Classical period?**
4. **Name 4 characteristics common to the arts during Classicism.**
5. **What two composers excelled in this period?**
6. **Name 3 characteristics of the Illustration.**
7. **According to the rationalists, where does man obtain knowledge primarily from?**
8. **How is the musical phrase distributed?**
9. **What musical characteristic is the great protagonist during Classicism?**
10. **How are the rhythms of music from the Classicism?**
11. **What is the difference between sonata and sonata form?**
12. **What Baroque instrumental characteristic is no longer used during Classicism?**
13. **What two instruments fell into disuse?**
14. **Make a list of classical orchestra instruments, separated by families.**