The Symphony

The Symphony

- Some early works composed for orchestra alone (now without any singers or soloists) were called symphonies
- Symphonies began to be written around 1720 by composers such as Sammartini and Stamitz
- These symphonies had three to four movements and used early sonata form and binary form
- Both Haydn and Mozart were innovators in the genre of the symphony, greatly expanding its capabilities
- Haydn is known to have written 106 symphonies and Mozart wrote 41

The Symphony Orchestra

- The modern symphony orchestra has its origins in the early Baroque, when groups of instruments were needed for opera
- Early orchestras had mostly strings and a few winds
- They also included a continuo section, and the keyboardist or first violinist generally doubled as the director
- By the beginning of the classical period, trumpets and horns began to be incorporated (as well as clarinets and bassoons)
- The Classical symphony orchestra consisted of pairs of winds and brass instruments (two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, and two trumpets), a pair of timpani, and a full string section

Haydn, Symphony no. 100

- Haydn's Symphony no. 100 is nicknamed the "Military"
 Symphony because the second movement features a trumpet fanfare and uses instruments associated with the military (the triangle, cymbals, and bass drum)
- ▶ The first movement begins with a slow introduction
 - Large scale works like symphonies may begin with a slow introduction before the exposition gets rolling
 - Slow introductions typically end on a half cadence, preparing the entry of the primary theme
- The third movement is a Minuet and the final movement is a Rondo

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