Franz Joseph Haydn
- Born 1732 in Rohrau, Austria
- Died 1809 in Vienna, Austria
- Nicknamed “Papa Haydn” by his fellow musicians.
- Employed by one prince for 29 years.
- A few of his most beloved works...
  - Symphony #94 (Surprise)
  - Cello Concerto #1 in C Major
  - Trumpet Concerto in E flat

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Born 1756 in Salzburg, Austria
- Died 1791 in Vienna, Austria
- A child prodigy, Mozart was encouraged and exploited by his father, Leopold.
- Despite extreme talent, he never gained a secure position, having to eke out a living from commission to commission, borrowing money to survive.
- A few of his beloved works...
  - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (translation - A Little Night Music),
  - Don Giovanni (Opera)
  - Requiem Mass in D minor
- Was buried in an unmarked, mass grave. This was the norm in Vienna for all except the very wealthy.

Ludwig van Beethoven
- Born 1770 in Bonn, Germany
- Died 1827 in Vienna, Austria
- A child prodigy, He showed amazing talent early on.
- He had a terrible childhood. His father tried to turn him into another Mozart, forcing him to practice all night and punishing him severely if his progress was "too slow".
- Known for being rude, ill tempered and living in chaotic circumstances
- Started to gradually lose his hearing at the age of 31.
- Wrote some of his best known pieces after he had become completely deaf.
- A few of his best loved works...
  - Symphony #3 (Eroica)
  - Symphony #5 (Dit-dit-dit DAH) : )
  - Ode to Joy from Ninth Symphony (Choral)
- All Vienna closed down for his funeral.

Definitions
- **The Classical Era Symphony**, as a musical form, consists of four movements.
  - First Movement - Fast and Lively
  - Second Movement - Slow and Lyrical
  - Third Movement - Dance-like, in 3/4 time
  - Fourth Movement - the Big Finale
- **Sonata** - a symphony composed for one or two instruments.
- **Sonata Form** – Two themes, one loud and forceful and one soft and lyrical, that both follow a cycle of EXPOSITION / DEVELOPMENT / RECAPITULATION
- **Concerto** - A piece for solo instrument accompanied by an orchestra in three movements, FAST-SLOW-FAST.
- **Cadenza** - a solo just before the end of a movement, allowing the soloist to “show-off.”
- **Opera** - A drama set to music and made up of vocal pieces with orchestral accompaniment.