

Lesson 3 25 April/ 2019

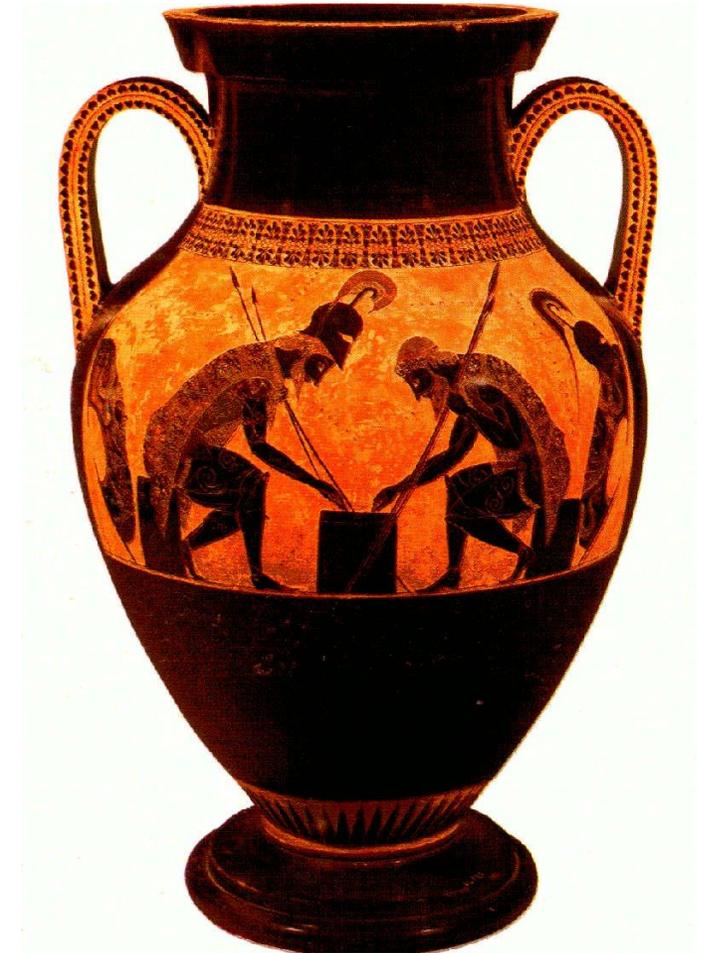
Today's topic

Why do the Europeans love
the **classical** music ?

What is the Europe ?



Art from ancient Greece and Rome is often called classical art. This is a reference to the fact that the art was not only beautiful but that it came from a Golden Age in the past and was passed down to us today. Greek art influenced Roman art and both of them were an inspiration for the Renaissance.



What is a Classic?

What do we mean when we call something a 'classic'? For example, for a classic car, or for a classic novel.

There's a more specific meaning for the term 'classic'? When it started to appear as a French word in the 1600s, 'classic' didn't just mean something vintage and classy. 'Classic' was used to describe things relating to the culture of Ancient Greece and Rome.

Classical Music and Neoclassicism

In Western history, people have looked back to Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations to inspire the art of their own time. One of those times was music's Classical Period, a music history that lasted from the mid-18th century to the early 19th century.

During the Classical Period, music wasn't the only art form to find inspiration in Ancient Greece and Rome. In an artistic movement, 'neoclassic', painters, sculptors and architects were also finding inspiration from subjects of Greco-Roman culture. There were similarities between art and music in the Classical era.



Like neoclassical art, Classical-era music found inspiration in the stories of antiquity. For example, take the opera *Idomeneo* composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). *Idomeneo* is based on an Ancient Greek myth about a king who must choose between sacrificing his son.

Journey from Ancient Greece to Classical period

Key points

- 1. Poetry and music, Lyric × music, Rhapsody**
- 2. Arts and classical music**
- 3. From Hellenism to Renaissance, how does the European territory changed ?**
- 4. Christianity and Medieval period**



**A banquet scene from a Macedonian tomb of Agios Athanasios,
Thessaloniki, 4th century BC;**

Ancient Greek territory





The Hellenistic period covers the period of Mediterranean history between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE and the emergence of the Roman Empire, Ptolemaic Egypt.

Origin of Japanese culture = Mediterranean history

In the East, Alexander the Great's conquests initiated several centuries of exchange between Greek, Central Asian and Indian cultures, resulting in Greco-Buddhist art, with ramifications as far as Japan. Following the Renaissance in Europe, the humanist aesthetic and the high technical standards of Greek art inspired generations of European artists. Well into the 19th century, the classical tradition derived from Greece dominated the art of the western world.



Hellenism and Judaism

Greco-Buddhism

Roman empire



- ◆ 27 BC – 476/1453 AD (conventional dates)
- ◆ 395 - 480 ([Western](#))
- ◆ 395 – 1453 ([Eastern](#))

Gregorian chant Music for Church

The Fall of Rome, The Rise of the Western European Church

What do you do after the fall of Rome? The medieval period lasted from approximately 500-1450 A.D. and was a time of heavy church influence. During the medieval period, the use and creation of music was regulated by the church.



Medieval Church Music

Chanting of this time period is called plainchant and is sometimes referred to as Gregorian chant, since Pope Gregory standardized chant for the liturgy.

It was standardized to promote unification of the churches throughout Europe. Pope Gregory remains the legendary transcriber of these chants.

The music itself was monophonic, meaning it was one melody without harmony. Monks would sing the prayers together in unison. There are no background singers or instruments.



Does music exist - or can it only be made?

Medieval music: by Arany
Greek Byzantine