



NEOCLASSICISM

is a musical trend that was popular in the 20th century

Interesting Facts:

- "Neo" means new, "classical" means using the elements from the Classical music period (late 17th, 18th centuries)
- Neoclassical composers were imitating the style of 17th and 18th centuries
- Emphasis on rhythm, use of contrapuntal texture, expanded harmony were important features of the style
- The music sounds unique - a mixture of classical style and modernization of the harmonies
- This musical trend was popular between two World Wars (1920-1950), although some composers wrote in neoclassical style earlier (19th century)
- "Neoclassical" piece from the 19th century: Variation on a Rococo Theme by Tchaikovsky
- Composers favored works for smaller ensembles and used lighter textures
- American composers such as Elliot Carter and Aaron Copland were also influenced by neoclassicism

Origin of neoclassicism:

- Took its roots as a response to overly emotional romanticism and atonal music trend (atonal music is the music that lacks the tonal center which makes it sound at times chaotic)
- The trend was started by Igor Stravinsky and then was supported by other composers
- Although composers before had written the pieces in this style, Stravinsky's influence made it a trend that lasted for about 30 years

Composers who wrote in neoclassical style:

- Igor Stravinsky
- Sergei Prokofiev
- Darius Milhaud
- Alexander Tansman
- Ottorino Respighi
- Paul Hindemith
- Maurice Ravel