

# CLASSICAL GENRES

A Guide to All Those Latin-ish Terms

# OBSOLETE GENRES

- Concerto grosso
  - Solo concerto flourished in the Classical, however
- Suite

# UNDERSTANDING GENRE

- **Form**

- The number of movements and their type

- **Instrumentation**

- Who plays it

- **Venue**

- Where it is, and what it's for

# FORM: THE BASIC LAYOUT

- First Movement: Sonata-Allegro Form
- Second Movement: Variations, or Aria-like 3-part form
- Third Movement: Minuet & Trio
- Fourth Movement: Sonata-Allegro Form, or Rondo

# SYMPHONY

- Form
  - Standard four movements
- Instrumentation
  - Full orchestra
- Venue
  - Concert hall, as kingpin of a concert

# STRING QUARTET

- Form
  - Standard four movements
- Instrumentation
  - Quartet: 2 violins, viola, 'cello
- Venue
  - Salon, home, recital hall -- intimate and sophisticated

# SONATA

- Form
  - Standard four movements, sometimes varied
- Instrumentation
  - Solo instrument, sometimes with accompaniment
- Venue
  - Salon, home, recital hall -- intimate

# CHAMBER GENRES

- Duo
- Trio
- Quartet
- Quintet
- Sextet
- Septet
- Octet

# WITH PIANO

- Piano Trio: piano, violin, cello in the usual 4-movements
- Piano Quartet: piano, violin, viola, cello, 4 movements
- Piano Quintet: piano + string quartet

# CONCERTO

- Form
  - Three movements: no Minuet & Trio
- Instrumentation
  - Solo instrument + orchestra
- Venue
  - Concert hall, as a showpiece for a soloist

# OPERA

- Form
  - Theatrical: acts and scenes
- Instrumentation
  - Singers, chorus, orchestra
- Venue
  - Opera house, grand public entertainment

# SACRED MUSIC

- Same as Baroque
  - Oratorios, cantatas, masses, anthems, motets, etc.