

# 4.1. A brief history of classical music.

## *Classicism*

Classicism was a musical period developed in Europe **between 1750 and 1820**, inspired by Enlightenment, which defended the use of reason to transform society, and the individual freedom, equality and tolerance as bases of coexistence. In this time the First Industrial Revolution took place.

Classical music emerged as a reaction to the excesses of Baroque and defended serenity and beauty according to the models of classical antiquity. It was characterized by balanced, clear and elegant compositions, without excessive adornments, with a very defined musical structure in which the melody had the protagonism with a simple accompaniment (the *basso continuo* disappeared).

During this time many concerts and symphonies were composed for the new **classical orchestra**, which dispensed the harpsichord and incorporated the clarinet, the french horn and the piano.

In **vocal music**, opera continued to gain importance.

**AUDICIÓN: Escena de la ópera *Don Giovanni* (Mozart). 1787.**

<https://youtu.be/OSw6seRf60s>

**Esta ópera de Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) se estrenó en Praga. Su texto está en italiano. La acción se desarrolla en Sevilla y cuenta las aventuras del noble Don Giovanni (Don Juan). En esta *aria*, su criado Leporello se dirige a Doña Elvira.**

- Identifica voces e instrumentos.**
- Identifica la estructura de esta pieza.**
- ¿Qué le cuenta Leporello a Doña Elvira?**
- ¿A qué se dedica Don Giovanni?**
- ¿Qué opinión te merecen estos tres personajes? (Leporello, Doña Elvira y Don Giovanni?)**

## 4.5. Classicism in Spain

In **Spain**, Classicism developed during the reigns of Carlos III and Carlos IV, great promoters of arts.

It was especially important the scenic music, with operas by Vicente Martín and Soler. Specifically in Cádiz, the opera was very important. The **tonadilla** also gained great strength: small pieces inspired by folklore (often Andalusian), performed between intervals.

In **orchestral and chamber music**, composer Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga stood out for his virtuosity. Regarding music for **guitar**, it is worth noting the figure of Fernando Sor.



**AUDICIÓN: *Tirana del Trípili* (Blas de Laserna, 1751-1816).**

**Con el trípili trípili trápala  
La tirana se canta y se baila.  
¡Anda, chiquillo, dale con gracia  
que me robaste el alma!**

**Blas de Laserna fue uno de los compositores más importantes de tonadillas entre 1775 y 1816. Desarrolló su actividad principal en Madrid.**

- Identifica voces e instrumentos.**
- Identifica su textura.**
- ¿Qué tipo de ritmo tiene?**
- ¿Qué estructura musical tiene esta pieza?**