

## Concise History of Western Music, 4e: Chapter 14 The Early Classic Period: Opera and Vocal Music

Title	Description
Classical style	The musical idiom of the eighteenth century, generally characterized by an emphasis on melody over relatively light accompaniment; simple, clearly articulated harmonic plans; periodic phrasing; clearly delineated forms based on contrast between themes, between keys, between stable and unstable passages, and between sections with different functions; and contrasts of mood, style, and figuration within movements as well as between them.
Empfindsam style	(German, "sensitive style" or "sentimental style") A close relative of the galant style, featuring surprising turns of harmony, chromaticism, nervous rhythms, and speechlike melodies.
Periodicity	The quality of being periodic, especially when it is emphasized through frequent resting points and articulations between phrases and periods.
Alberti bass	Broken-chord accompaniment common in the second half of the eighteenth century and named after Domenico Alberti, who used the figuration frequently.
Opera buffa	(Italian, "comic opera") Eighteenth-century genre of Italian comic opera, sung throughout.
Intermezzo	Eighteenth-century genre of Italian comic opera, performed between acts of a serious opera or play.
Opera seria	(Italian, "serious opera") Eighteenth-century genre of Italian opera on a serious subject but normally with a happy ending, usually without comic characters and scenes.
Da capo aria	Aria form with two sections. The first section is repeated after the second section's close, which carries the instruction da capo (Italian, "from the head"), creating an aba form.
Opéra comique	(French, "comic opera") In the eighteenth century, light French comic opera, which used spoken dialogue instead of recitatives.
Ballad opera	Genre of eighteenth-century English comic play featuring songs in which new words are set to borrowed tunes.
Singspiel	(German, "singing play") German genre of opera featuring spoken dialogue interspersed with songs, choruses, and instrumental music.
Ballad	(1) Long narrative poem, or musical setting of such a poem. (2) A late-eighteenth-century German poetic form that imitated the folk ballad of England and Scotland and was set to music by German composers. The ballad expanded the Lied in both form and emotional content.
Lied	(German, 'song'; pl. Lieder) A song with German words, whether monophonic, polyphonic, or for voice with accompaniment; used especially for songs for voice and piano in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.