

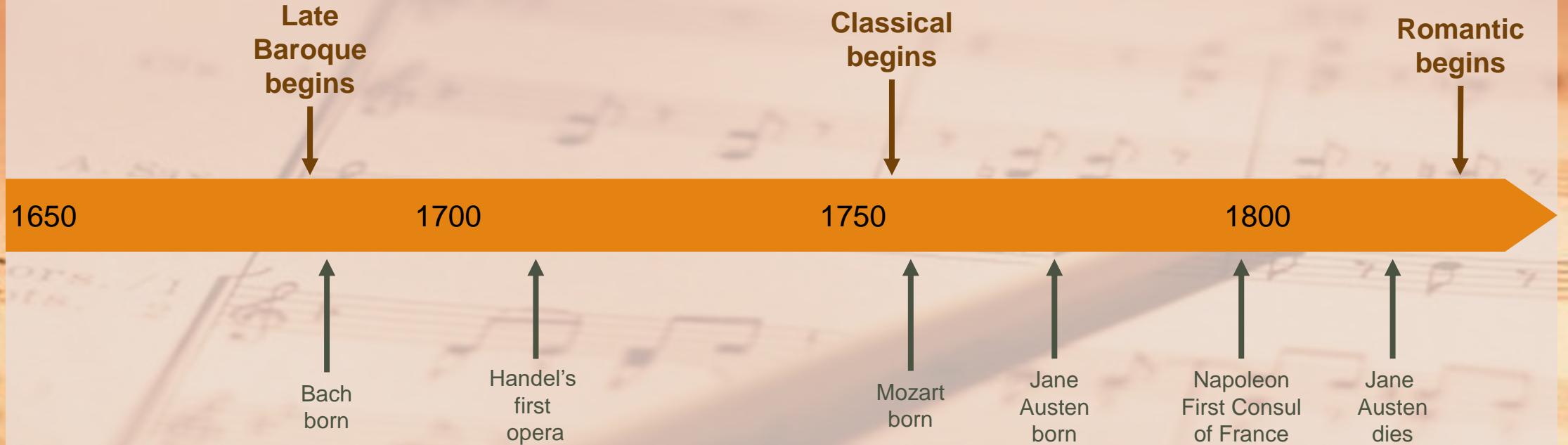
# Music in Jane Austen's World

Elaine Blatt, and Master of Ceremonies, Stephanie Fleming

JASNA ORSWWA Chapter Meeting

July 25, 2021

# Musical periods



# The music – the classical period

- Characterized by homophony – melody played over subordinate harmony
- Move toward simplicity
- Brighter contrasts and “tone colors” achieved by dynamic and key changes
- Composers more directive as to dynamics and phrasing
- Greater emphasis on instrumental music

# The composers



Mozart



Haydn



Beethoven



Pleyel

# The rise of the piano

- Begins with the harpsichord
- First appears in 1600s
- Sound is made with a quill that plucks the string
- Very light action
- But, player can't affect the dynamics of the instrument much



# The rise of the piano

- First piano built by Bartolomeo Cristofori in about 1700
- Plucking action replaced by hammers
- Originally called *pianoforte*
- Hammer action allowed for dynamic control



# The rise of the piano

- Enter the Broadwood piano
- Made improvements like increasing the number of keys and adding pedals
- Favored by Beethoven and Haydn
- Also built square pianos accessible to less wealthy



# Some JA music background

- Jane Austen loved music and practiced piano daily
- Kept an extensive collection of sheet music
- Played and sang for family
- Attended concerts

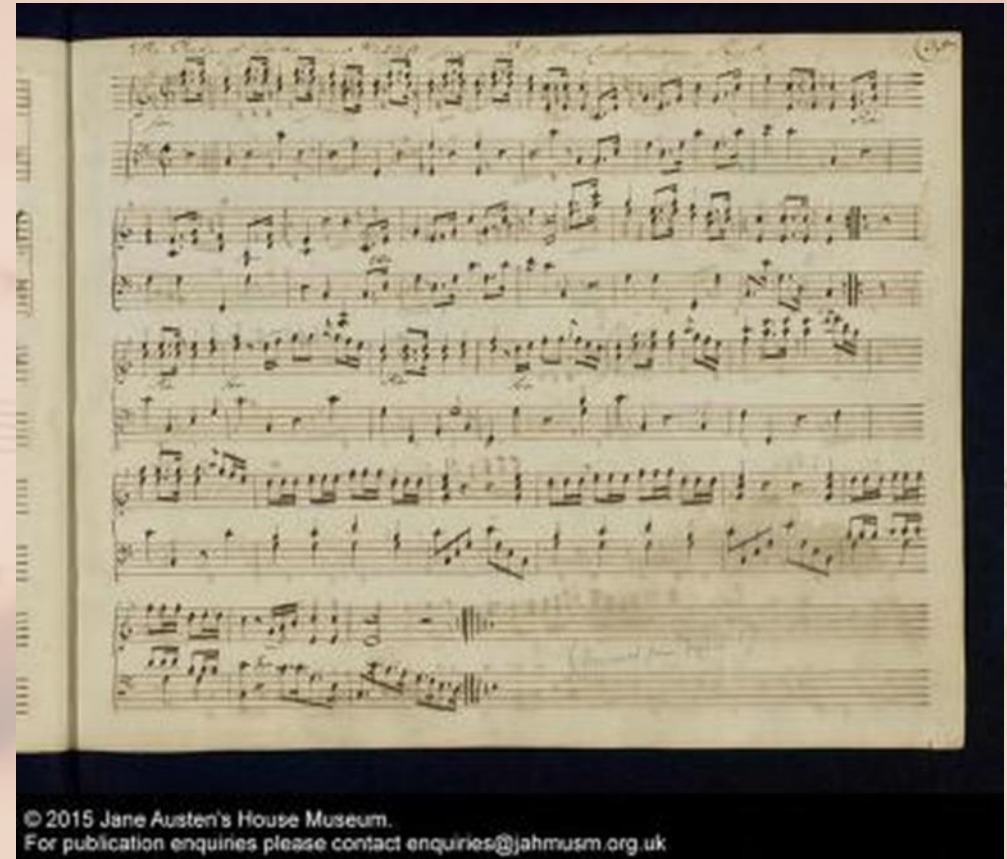


# Austen family music collection

- 18 extant volumes
  - Many are binder's volumes Others are personal manuscript albums made wholly or principally by a single copyist.
  - Majority date from Jane Austen's lifetime
  - Two volumes are identified as personal albums created by Jane herself
- Total collection includes nearly 600 pieces
  - Mainly songs and works for keyboard or harp
  - Works by both well-known and now lesser to unknown composers

# Jane's music collection

- Keyboard volume
  - Titled “Juvenile Songs & Lessons for young beginners who don't know enough to practice
  - Features music from 1790 to 1810
- Many are piano reductions of orchestral works



# Jane's music collection

- Second volume
  - Titled "Songs and Duetts"
  - Features music from 1790 to 1805
- Vocal music (solo and ensemble), mainly with keyboard accompaniment



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For publication enquiries please contact [enquiries@jahmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jahmuseum.org.uk)

# Jane's music collection

- Volume of printed solo keyboard pieces
  - Features music from 1785 to 1795
  - 14 Favorite Sonatinas, by Pleyel
  - Pleyel's "Celebrated Overture"
  - Battle of Prague



# Jane's music collection – Battle of Prague



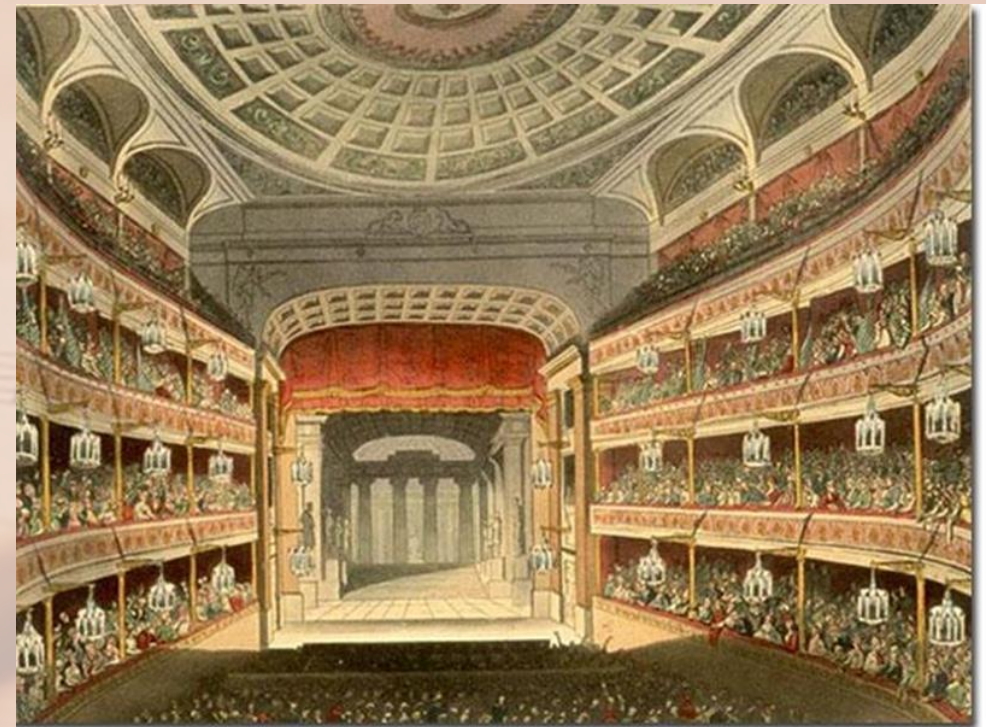
From AGM 2017, Huntington Beach

# Performance in Regency England



# Performance in Regency England

- Covent Garden
- Venue for performances of Royal Opera
- Jane Austen did attend some performances.
- One such performance was of the Thomas Arne opera, Artaxerxes



Theater Royal, Covent Garden, 1806

*Thank you!*  
*Elaine and Stephanie*

