The Classical Style: An Introduction

A. Musical Characteristics

1. Sound
   a. The range of dynamics increased.
   b. Crescendos were longer and more expressive.

2. Melody
   c. Melody line was in the top voice.
   d. Two-fold melody was used (antecedent and consequent)

3. Harmony
   a. It is homophonic in texture.
   b. The bass line had less melodic interest.

4. Timbre
   a. Instrumental music dominated, particularly the orchestra.
   b. The piano replaced the harpsichord as the primary keyboard instrument.

5. Form
   a. Sonata-Allegro form developed at this time.
   b. Composers started to use the old ideas of order and symmetry of design in their forms.

B. 18th Century Music in America

1. Singing School Movement
   a. was developed by local craftsmen with no formal training.
   b. The singing school masters wrote many of the strong simple folk tunes that have been passed down through the centuries.
   c. William Billings is a significant American composer who was central in the Singing School Movement.
   d. Daniel Reed is another prominent composer of the Singing School Movement.

2. General information of American 18th Century music
   a. Music was found in urban areas.
   b. Middle class families started to own instruments and take lessons.
   c. There were few professional musicians from Europe.
   d. Generally, orchestral music was not appreciated.
   e. The performance of music by the public did not compete with the performances held in Europe.

3. Famous Americans who promoted participation in music.
   a. Benjamin Franklin played the guitar and invented a musical instrument called the glass harmonica.
   b. Thomas Jefferson played the violin and took lessons when he went abroad on diplomatic trips to Europe.