

# CLASSICAL MUSIC DEAD?

Renaissance composers had their style and Classical composers theirs. Romantic composers changed some rules to create their style. Then the twentieth century happened. Randomization of notes created atonal music. Randomization of performance created aleatory music. The only thing left was to turn everything upside down. Music, of all the arts, had been wholly dependent on sound. Now it had ironically become one of silence. In 1952, composer John Cage wrote "four minutes, thirty-three seconds" where performers are instructed not to play a single sound for the duration.

Where does classical music go from here? Maybe some sort of neo-classicism, where traditional materials and styles preserve originality while at the same time please listeners with new insights?