

Romantic, Impressionism, 20th/21st Centuries: Big Ideas

❖ Romantic period

- *Ethos* vs. *pathos* (objective vs. emotional elements)
- Tends to obscure, allude, suggest, symbolize
- Seeks: impossible fulfillment; the unattainable; to transcend
- Ivory tower artist; unsociable, inspired, exalted, genius (artists)
- Concert societies formed and festivals established
- Secular and materialistic age; nationalism of major importance
- Revival of music of the past (e.g., Renaissance and Baroque)
- Greater rhythmic freedom; blurred the outlines of tonality through chromaticism; chromatic voice leading; distant modulations; tonal ambiguity; complex chords, freer use of non-harmonic tones; avoidance of distinct cadences; innovative uses of instrumental colors; new sonorities; lyrical, often soaring or passion-filled melodies; cyclical principles applied to composition
- Absolute music vs. Program Music (e.g. Beethoven tradition vs. Berlioz)
- Through composed music vs. strophic
- Opera: grand, lyric, buffa, music dramas (Wagner)

♣ Composers

- Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; songs, traditionalist, symphonies, character pieces for piano
- Robert Schumann, 1810-1856: lots of piano, symphonies, character pieces, Journal for New Music; Clara is his wife and an accomplished composer and concert pianist
- Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847: revived music of Bach; Beethoven tradition of composing; symphonies, etc.
- Frederic Chopin, 1810-1849: pianist; tempo rubato; lots of character pieces and concert etudes for piano
- Hector Berlioz, 1803-1860: Progressive tradition of composition; big, lud, pieces; grand compositions; wrote a treatise on orchestration
- Franz Liszt, 1811-1886: showmanship of piano; wrote technically demanding piano pieces; new form developed SYMPHONIC POEM; thematic transformation
- Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897: Beethoven tradition of composition; best choral composer of period; revitalized use of counterpoint in music; A German Requiem is most famous piece
- Anton Bruckner, 1824-1896: late period; devout choral composer, wrote hug scale symphonies, progressive and traditionalist camp
- Antonin Dvorak, 1841-1904: nationalist composer in the Beethoven tradition; Czech music basis for lots of his compositions; came to US and incorporated US music into compositions: New World Symphony (#9)

- Peter Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893: Russian composer; Beethoven tradition, although somewhat nationalist, but ostracized by the Russian nationalist composers, The Mighty Handful
- OPERA COMPOSERS: Giuseppe Verdi; Giacomo Puccini; Richard Wagner; Gioachino Rossini, Gaetano Donizetti

POST ROMANTICISM/NATIONALISM/IMPRESSIONISM (LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

The Twilight of Romanticism

1. Hugo Wolf: song composer (250 songs)
2. Gustav Mahler: large symphonies combining voices and choruses
3. Richard Strauss; Tone Poems based on philosophy or a descriptive idea
4. Alexander Scriabin: Russian pianist; new harmony “mystic chord” harmonies based on 4ths mixed with tertian (3rds) harmonies.
5. Sergei Rachmaninoff: Russian pianist; composer
6. Verismo: truth in opera, Puccini

Exoticism/Nationalism

1. Bedrich Smetana (Czech): Moldau River from *Ma Vlast* (My Country)
2. Mighty Handful (Russia): Cui, Balakirev; Borodin; Mussorgsky; Rimsky-Korsakov
3. Edvard Grieg: Norway
4. Sibelius: Finland

France & Impressionism

1. New harmonies: whole-tone scale, pentatonic scale, contrived/exotic (meaning from other places); microtonal scales
2. Use of parallel chords
3. Composers; Franck; Faure; Saint-Saens; Debussy; Ravel; Satie; *Les Six* (group of six composers—really part of the 20th century)

Twentieth & Twenty-first Centuries

Trends: those listed are major currents within the period

1. Nationalism (see above and US—A. Copland, e.g.)
2. Twelve-tone (Second Viennese School): Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern
3. Aleatoric/chance music
4. Neo-Romanticism
5. Jazz and Folk Idioms and influences in music (also Ragtime and Broadway)
6. Neo-Classicism
7. Popular Music
8. Multi-cultural music: 5 regions of the world are Americas (north and south—not popular music, indigenous only); Asia and the Pacific Rim; India/subcontinent; Arab; and Sub-Sahara Africa