

The Romantic Era

1827-1900

Romantic Music

- Earth changing events of the time
 - American and French Revolution
- Inspired by books, poems or plays
 - Johann Wolfgang Goethe
 - Books stress human passions, imagination and freedom
 - Several operas based on his works such as *Faust*
- Ignored rules of the classical period
 - Rules of form and balance ignored
 - Music was emotional and moody
 - A time of burgeoning creativity

The Lieder and the Tone Poem

- Lieder
 - Poetry specifically set to music
 - Franz Schubert wrote 145 Lieder
- Tone Poem
 - Tell stories with sound alone
 - Richard Strauss
 - 2001: A Space Odyssey
 - Robert Schumann
 - Lost his sanity
 - His wife Clara was a virtuoso pianist
 - She promoted his music after his death



Program Music

- Other composers wrote texts of words or “programs” to be read by the audience before the music was played
- Composer at the forefront of this movement was Hector Berlioz
 - Wrote *Symphony Fantastique*
 - Subtitle “Episode in the Life of an Artist”
 - Used an orchestra of 150



Romantic Virtuoso

"Rock Stars"

- Niccolò Paganini
 - Virtuoso Violinist
- Franz Liszt
 - Virtuoso Pianist



Romantic Operas

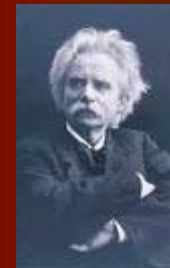
A Grand Spectacle

- Two Main Schools
 - Italian
 - Gioacchino Rossini
 - Giuseppe Verdi
 - German-Austrian
 - Richard Wagner
- Focus on tales of supernatural
 - Evil spirits, witches
 - Soul snatching demons



Nationalism

- Ethnic folk music embraced as the basis of classical compositions
 - Bohemia
 - Antonin Dvorak
 - Norway
 - Edvard Grieg
 - Finland
 - Jan Sibelius
 - Denmark
 - Carl Nielsen
 - Russia
 - Peter Tchaikovsky



More Composers

- Felix Mendelssohn

- Wrote the wedding march
- Rediscovered Bach



- Carl Maria von Weber

- Drew up the standard seating arrangement for orchestra players
- First to have "sectional" rehearsals
- First to conduct using a baton and standing on a podium

- Frederic Chopin

- Virtuoso Pianist
- Revolutionized piano music



- Johannes Brahms

- Born in Germany
- Played piano in taverns and brothels
- Eventually became one of the leading composers of his day