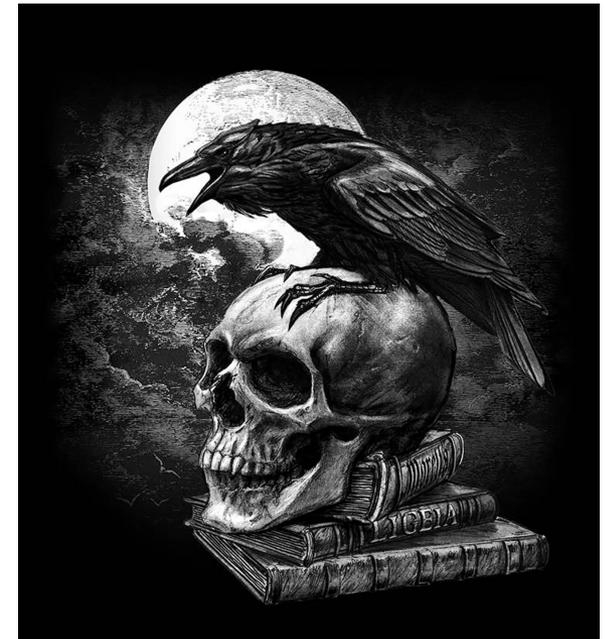
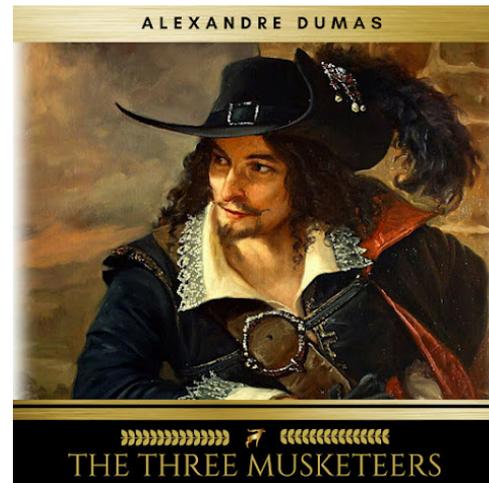


Music: An Appreciation

Part V: The Romantic Period

TIMELINE

- Schubert, *Erlkonig* - 1815
- Revolutions in France, Belgium, & Poland - 1830
- Berlioz, *Symphonie fantastique* - 1830 (listening assignment)
- Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* - 1831
- Chopin, *Etude in C Minor, Op 10, No 12* - 1831 (listening assignment)
- Dickens, *Oliver Twist* - 1837
- Dumas, *The Three Musketeers* - 1844
- Poe, *The Raven* - 1845



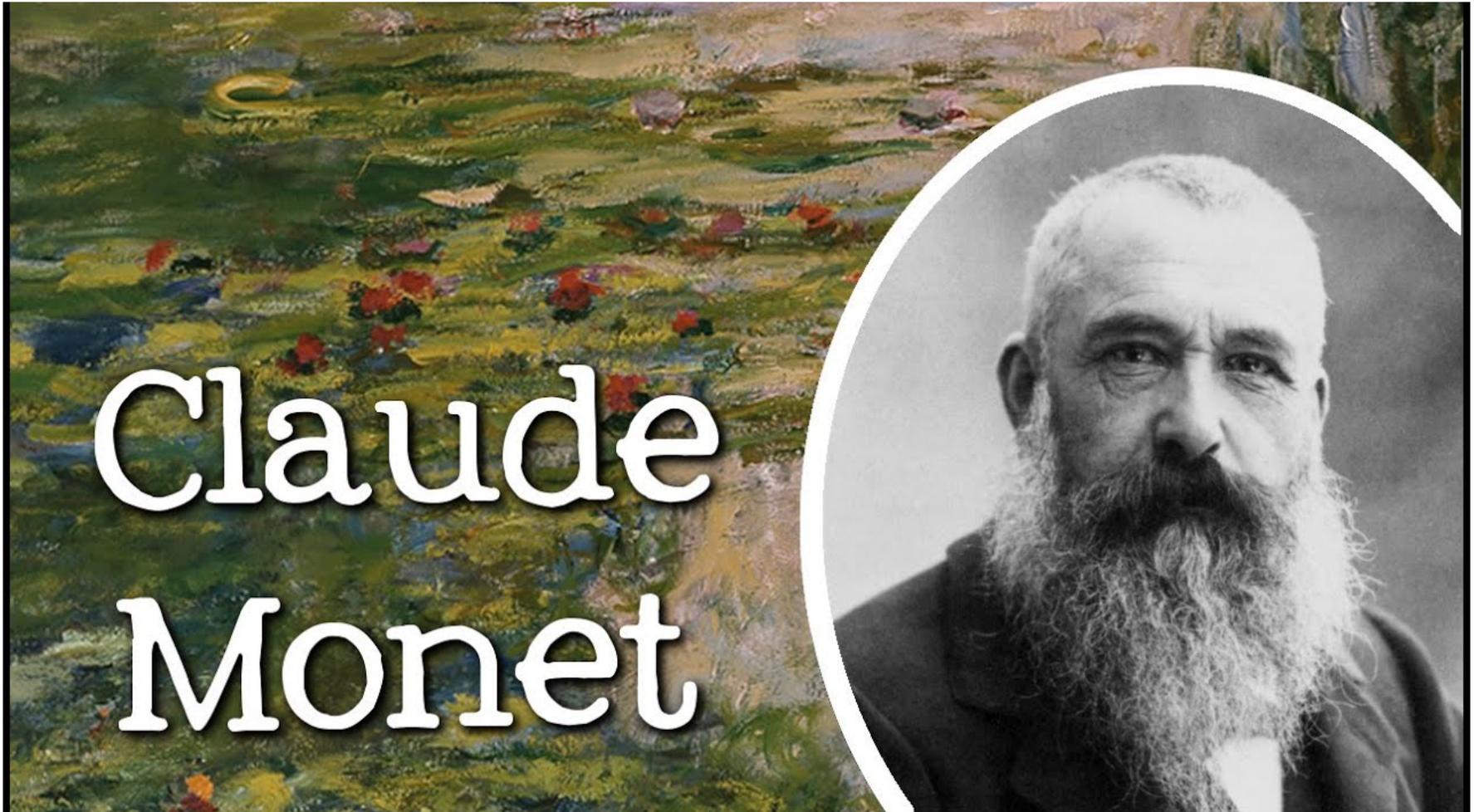
CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM EXPLAINED



- Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* - 1848
- Liszt, *Transcendental Etude in F Minor* - 1851 (listening assignment)
- Wagner, *Die Walkure* - 1856 (listening assignment)

Timeline Continued

- Darwin, *Origin of Species* - 1859
- American Civil War - 1861 – 1865
- Brahms, *German Requiem* - 1868
- Tchaikovsky, *Romeo & Juliet* - 1870
(listening assignment)
- Monet, *Impression, Sunrise* - 1874



Timeline Continued

- Bizet, *Carmen* - 1875 (listening assignment)

 TURN ON SOUND

Bizet's *Carmen*
IN THREE MINUTES



Timeline Continued

- Bell invents telephone - 1876
- Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* - 1884



ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN



Timeline Continued

- van Gogh, *The Starry Night* - 1889



- Puccini, *La Boheme* - 1896 (listening assignment)
- Spanish-American War - 1898

Romanticism

- 1820-1900
- A Cultural movement that stressed emotion, imagination, and individualism
 - Rebellion against the 'age of reason', Classical Era
 - broaden horizons
- Emotional subjectivity basis of arts
 - freedom of expression
- Favorite artistic topics:
 - Fantasy and the supernatural
 - irrational & dream like
 - exotic & far off lands
 - Middle Ages: concept of chivalry and romance
 - viewed by the Classical Era as “dark”, but cherished by the Romantic Era
 - Romantic era was inspired by the works from the Middle Ages
 - Gothic Cathedrals were viewed as picturesque
 - gothic architecture was revived (Parliament shown above)
 - Nature as mirror of the human heart
- Period of the Industrial Revolution
 - Resulted in social and economic changes



Romanticism in Music

- Many important romantic composers

Franz Schubert, Antonin Dvořák, Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Peter Tchaikovsky, Frédéric Chopin, Johannes Brahms, Franz Liszt, Giuseppe Verdi, Felix Mendelssohn, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Giacomo Puccini, Hector Berlioz, Richard Wagner, Bedřich Smetana, & George Bizet

- some composed in the classical tradition while others were revolutionary

- Continued use of classical forms

- emotional intensity was already present in the works of Mozart & Beethoven

- Greater range of tone color, dynamics, and pitch than in classical period

- Expanded harmony, complex (unstable) chords

- greater focus on tension & less on balance & resolution

- More closely linked to literature

Characteristics of Romantic Music - 1

Individuality of style

- Composers want uniquely identifiable music
 - self expression
 - “There is not a bar which I have not truly felt & which is not an echo of my innermost feelings” - Tchaikovsky
 - “ A new world of music” - Chopin
 - ...with some listening experience, a music lover can tell within a few minutes - sometimes within a few seconds - whether a piece is by Schumann or Chopin, Tchaikovsky or Brahms.

Expressive aims and subjects

- flamboyance & intimacy, unpredictability & melancholy, rapture & longing
- Romantic love still focus of songs and operas, but were filled with the characters having to face overwhelming obstacles
- Dark topics drew composers
- Subjects drawn from the Middle Ages & from Shakespeare’s plays

Nationalism and exoticism

- Nationalism: music with a national identity
 - folksongs, dances, legends, & history of their homelands
- Exoticism: intentionally imply foreign culture
 - French composer, Bizet, wrote *Carmen* which is set in Spain
 - Italian composer, Puccini, wrote *Madame Butterfly* which is set in Japan
 - Russian composer, Rimsky-Korsakov, wrote *Scheherazade* which is set in SW Asia

Characteristics of Romantic Music - 2

Program music

- Instrumental music associated with a story, poem, idea, scene
 - Berlioz, Schumann, Liszt, & Wagner were also prolific authors
 - Union of the Arts
- represent emotions, characters, & events of a particular story OR sounds & motion of nature (March to the Scaffold)

Expressive tone color

- Composers wanted rich & sensuous sound
 - tone color added variety to the mood & atmosphere; important to emotional content
- Composers tried to create unique sounds
 - Blending of existing instruments
 - Addition of new instruments
 - orchestra was larger, over twice the size, or the classical orchestra (26 vs 100)
 - Brass, Woodwinds, & Percussion take a more active role
- Piano was improved - cast iron frame, felt covered hammers, damper pedal, & extended range.

Colorful harmony

- Chords built with notes not in traditional keys created more complex harmonies & emotional intensity
- chromatic scale
- many changes of key within a piece created the instability of the Romantic music

Characteristics of Romantic Music - 3

Expanded range of dynamics, pitch, and tempo

- Dynamics *ff*, *pp* expanded to *ffff* and *pppp*
 - frequent crescendos & decrescendos
 - sudden dynamic changes
- Extremely high and low pitches were added
 - piano range extended
 - instruments like the piccolo & contra bassoon were added
- Changes in mood frequently underlined by shifts in tempo to intensify expression
 - accelerandos (speed up); ritardandos (slow down): rubato (holding back the tempo)

Forms: miniature and monumental

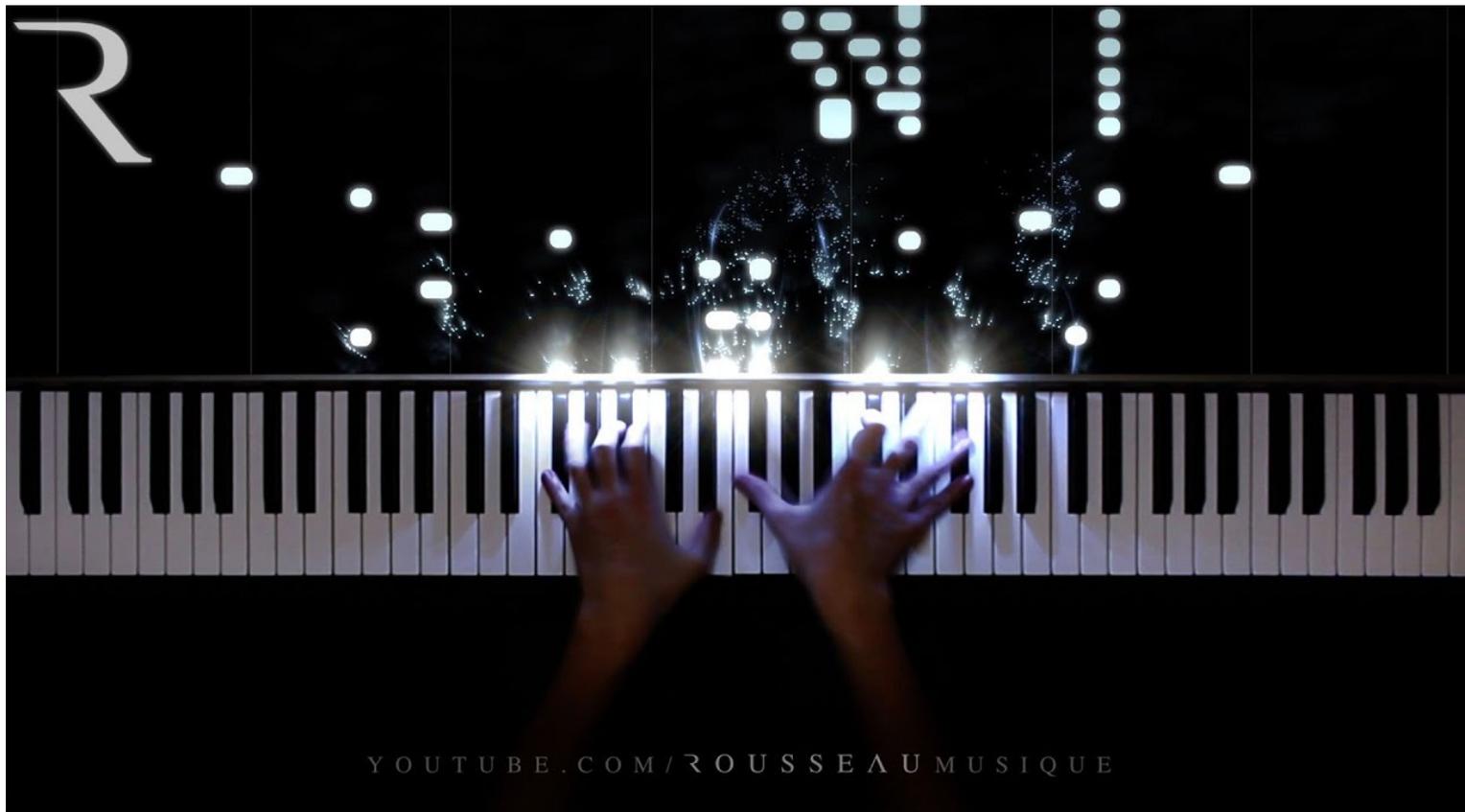
- Some compositions went on for hours
 - meant for the new, larger opera houses & concert halls
 - had to have larger orchestras
- Some' music lasted only a few minutes
 - meant to be heard in intimate settings like homes
 - pianos were becoming a common thing in homes
- Composers wrote symphonies, sonatas, string quartets, concertos, operas, choral works & many other classically traditional works

Romantic Composers and Their Public

- Radical change of a composer's role in society during Beethoven's lifetime
 - In the past, their jobs were to write specific works for specific occasions and/or audiences (Bach & Haydn)
 - Beethoven was the first to work as a freelance musician
 - no commissions; wrote to please himself (Individualism)
- Demise of the patronage system
 - Composers regarded themselves as “free spirits”
 - wanted to be judged favorably by their peers
 - “I want to leave on this earth some trace of my existence” - Berlioz
 - Decline in artistic fortune—French Revolution & Napoleonic wars
 - aristocrats could no longer afford opera houses & composers in residence
 - Germany abolished the tiny ‘states’ & merged into larger territories
 - wrote primarily for the middle class who had new wealth due to the industrial revolution
 - cities expanded & people wanted to hear AND play music
 - non professional orchestras were formed & public concerts for the middle class grew
 - London Philharmonic Society was founded in 1813
 - Paris Société des Concerts du Conservatoire was founded in 1828
 - Vienna Philharmonische Konzerte & the New York Philharmonic were founded in 1842

Romantic Composers & Their Public continued

- Music Conservatories were founded throughout Europe
 - some also in the United States in the 1860s - Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, Oberlin (OH), & Philadelphia
 - More young people than ever before were studying music
- Public was obsessed by virtuosity
 - Franz Liszt, piano



Romantic Composers & Their Public continued

- Niccolò Paganini, violin
- Clara Wieck Schumann, piano
- Joseph Joachim, violin

David Garrett - Paganini Caprice N° 24



Niccolo Paganini – “Caprice 24” (The “Devil’s Violinist”)

The Age of the Virtuoso



Romantic Composers & Their Public continued

- Piano became a fixture in most homes
 - great demand for solo piano pieces
 - operas & orchestral works were arranged to be played at home on the piano
- Composers/audience: same social class
 - in the past, being a musician was passed from one generation to another (Bach, Mozart, & Beethoven).
 - Romantic composers had to persuade their families
- Few composers financially successful
 - they had to take other jobs like music critics, soloists, conductors, & music teachers

The Art Song

- Composition for solo voice & piano
 - the accompaniment is an integral part of the composers concept
 - serves as a partner to the voice
 - performed in concert halls, but still used in the home
- Linked to vast amount of poetry in this period
 - Composers interpreted poems, translating mood, atmosphere, & imagery into music
 - top composers for the art song were Schubert, Schumann, & Brahms
 - all German or Austrian who used their native language, German
 - the German word for this kind of song is *lied*
- Topics of these art songs were inspired by love lost, nature, legends, or other times & places
 - a reaching out of the soul
- the mood is often set by a brief piano introduction & summed up at the end of a postlude

Strophic and through-composed form

- Strophic form repeats music for each verse (like a hymn)
- Through-composed: new music each verse

The song cycle

- Group of songs unified in some manner
- Storyline or musical idea may link the songs

Franz Schubert

- born in 1797 in a small town not far from Vienna, Austria
 - Although he technically lived during the end of the Classical period (1750-1820), his music fits the characteristics of the Romantic Period (1820-1900)
- began his musical training on a violin with his father, and later learned piano from an older brother
- at 11 y/o, Schubert started singing in one of the court chapels in Vienna
- began regular music studies at the boarding school there
 - he became a violinist in the school orchestra
- composed his first symphony in 1813 at the age of 16
- during the seventeen years between 1811 and 1828 - from the time he was 14 years old until his death - he composed about 600 works
 - of these works, nine were symphonies
 - most well known work is his eighth symphony which was written in 1822
 - he was 25 years old at the time, but the work was not performed until 1865 - 43 years after his death
 - His eighth symphony is nicknamed the *Unfinished Symphony* because it has only two movements (sections).
 - Most symphonies of that time period had three or four movements (sections).
 - No finished symphony of the Classical or Romantic periods had just two movements - he apparently believed that his eighth symphony could stand alone with just two movements
 - also wrote string quartets, chamber music, sonatas, masses, operas, & piano works
- Prodigious output
 - When 18 years old, wrote 143 songs
 - At 19 years, wrote 179 works

Schubert

Other facts about Schubert:

- he is considered the master of the 'lieder' - he wrote over 600 in his lifetime
- his father was a school teacher
- at the age of 11, he was accepted into the best school in Vienna, the Imperial and Royal Seminary - home of the world famous Vienna Boys Choir
- he left school to move back home with his family at age 17 where he became an elementary teacher at his father's school
- he loved using German Romantic Poetry in his compositions
- he stopped teaching in 1818 when he took the position of music tutor to the Esterhazy daughters (family members of Haydn's former employer)
- his seventeen attempts at composing operas was unsuccessful due to his choice of librettos
- he was not focused on getting his music published - he was more interested in being social
- some days he would compose up to five songs
- several times in his life he moved in with a friend named Schober because he was short on money
- in 1822 he contracted a fatal disease and had to move back into his father's home for two years
- he moved in with his brother and died shortly after in 1828
- his last wish was to be buried near the great Ludwig van Beethoven

Schubert - Erlkönig



Robert Schumann

- German, early to mid-romantic (1810 – 1856)
 - writer & music critic
 - made famous some of the leading composer of the Romantic era
- Studied law at Leipzig University
 - often skipped lectures to devote his time to literature & music
- Wanted to be piano virtuoso
 - Problem with hand ended his ambition
 - tried using a mechanical gadget designed to stretch & strengthen the fingers, but it did not help
 - focused on composition instead
- Married his piano teacher's daughter, Clara Wieck
 - she was a 9 year old prodigy & he was 18 when they met
 - engaged when she was 17 & he was 26
 - had to fight a court battle against her father to be married
 - lived a happy marriage
 - as a composer & performer, Clara 'introduced' many of his works to the public
- Temperamentally unsuited for some of the musical positions he attempted
- Attempted suicide by drowning
 - Committed to asylum where he died two years later

Schumann continued

- Spent the first 10 years of his career writing only pieces for the piano
 - used a lot of piano improvisation
 - song cycles
 - single mood (unity of mood), sensitive melody, dance rhythms, & syncopation
- After marrying Clara, he composed art songs
 - used song cycles
 - emotional & literary
- Later moved to symphonies & chamber music
- example - *Fatasiestucke* - cycle of 8 short pieces, each with its own character & mood
 - Aufschwung = soaring
 - passionate & impulsive w/a fast tempo & driving rhythms
 - A B A C A B A



Robert Schumann - Aufschwung

Robert Schumann



Frédéric Chopin

- Polish mother, French father (1810 – 1849)
 - brought up in Poland
 - graduated from the Warsaw Conservatory
- Move to Paris (European artistic capital) at age 21
 - close friends with Liszt & Berlioz
- Shy & reserved - performed in intimate gatherings verses concert halls
 - salons
 - short pieces like nocturnes, preludes, & waltzes
- Piano teacher to the daughters of the rich
- Had a love affair with Aurore Dudevant, a novelist who went by George Sand
 - took care of him during their years together
 - after they separated, his health declined rapidly
- Always a frail man
 - died of T.B. at the age 39

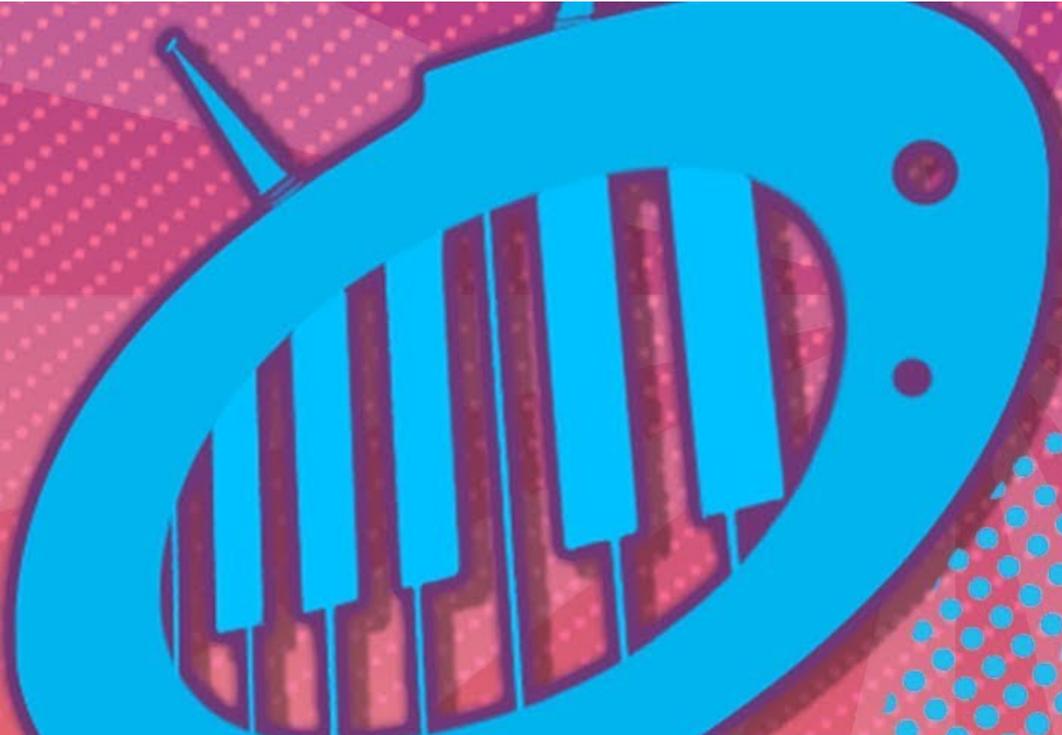
Chopin continued

- Developed personal musical style by 18
 - personal & original style
 - Evokes a variety of moods
 - elegant, graceful, & melodic
 - Captured the spirit of the Polish people
 - miniatures
 - colorful harmonies
- Made the piano 'sing'
 - use of the pedals
 - ornamental tones
- Nocturne (night piece) - slow, lyrical, & intimate composition for piano
 - Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op 9, No 2
 - composed when he was 20
 - reflective until the end when it becomes passionate
 - rubato - slight fluctuations of tempo

Chopin Prelude in E minor Op 28 no. 4



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23 FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT FREDERIC CHOPIN

Franz Liszt

- Hungarian born composer (1811 – 1886)
- 1822 - he moved to Vienna
 - he met and studied music with Schubert and Beethoven
- in his teens & twenties, he lived in Paris where he heard the violin virtuoso, Paganini
 - He declared that he wanted to be a great virtuoso on piano - as great as Paganini on the violin
 - at the age of 19 he withdrew from the concert stage for a few years
 - practiced 8 to 12 hours daily
- When he returned to the stage he became one of the greatest pianists of his time
 - He was playing mostly music that he composed because other music was too easy for him.
- Touring concert pianist until age 36
 - Incredible performer and showman—“rock star”
 - Retired from touring and became court conductor, and later took minor holy orders
 - Found new ways to exploit the piano
- Became a conductor, composer, author, & music critic
- died of pneumonia at the age 76

Liszt's Music

- Extremely controversial
- Broke away from strict classical forms
- Created *symphonic poem* (*tone poem*)
- later works were unappreciated, but showed hints of what was coming in the 20th century

Liszt continued

Interesting facts about Liszt:

- his father was an amateur musician who worked under Haydn at the Esterhazy palace
- he applied to the Paris Conservatory of Music, but was not accepted
- he was very religious and wanted to become a priest, but his parents repeatedly talked him out of that decision
- although Hungarian, he spoke German, French, & Italian - but his favorite was French
- he had an affair with the Countess Marie d'Agoult - who then left her husband and she and Liszt constantly moved between Switzerland, France, & Italy to escape scandal
- the Countess & Liszt had three children - one of whom would later marry the composer Richard Wagner
- from 1839-1847 he gave over 1000 recitals all over Europe
- he was a celebrity. Women even fainted while attending his concerts
- after 12 years, Liszt & the Countess parted ways. Liszt moved to Weimar to work for the Grand Duke (by the way, Bach had lived in Weimar as well)
- Liszt's music was greatly influenced by literature
- he met the Princess Carolyne von Sayn-Wittgenstein who was separated from her husband. They began a relationship and moved to a property called "Altenburg".
- for his 50th birthday, he & the princess were to be married in Rome, however she was unable to get her previous marriage annulled so the wedding did not happen
- Liszt entered a monastery for two years to study Gregorian Chant & reflect on his spiritual side
- Hungary created the Liszt Academy of Music in 1871 and made Liszt the first president of the school
- Liszt had very long, thin fingers with barely any webbing between each one allowing him to play the piano differently than anyone else

Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody (The Cat Concerto)



Yannie Tan Plays the Cat Concerto



FRANZ LISZT



Felix Mendelssohn

- German composer (1809 – 1847)
 - born to a wealthy & distinguished Jewish family, but was raised as a Protestant
- Developed early - brilliant pianist by 9
- Was writing symphonies, concertos, sonatas, & vocal works of very high quality by the age of 13
- As a teen, he performed his works at home with a private orchestra
 - audience consisted of the intellectual & artistic elite of Berlin
- Rooted in classical tradition
 - Responsible for revival of Bach's music
 - 1829 he conducted Bach's *St Matthew Passion* for the first time since Bach's death
- Performed as a pianist, organist, & conductor in Germany & England
 - he was very popular in his homeland as well as England
 - Often visited & played for Queen Victoria
- Founded the Leipzig Conservatory when he was 33
- Happily married & had four children
- Died of a stroke while touring due to constant travel when he was just 38

Mendelssohn's Music

- Wrote enormous amounts of music in all genres except opera
- Somewhat more conservative
 - Avoids emotional extremes
 - Projects both elegance and balance

Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin & Orchestra in E Minor, Op 64, 1st Movement



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f on G

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Program Music

- Instrumental music associated with a story, poem, idea, or scene
 - depict emotions, characters, and events
 - can also depict sounds & motions of nature
- imitate certain sounds - birds, thunder, bells, wind, etc...
 - composer can exploit the rhythms to create motion
 - continuous rapid notes may represent waves or a stream
 - even with these concepts, music is usually performed with written explanation of the piece—a program
- In romantic period, usually for piano or orchestra
- Common types:
 - Program symphony: multi-movement/orchestral
 - *symphonie fantastique*
 - Concert overture: modeled on opera overture - a one movement composition that establishes the mood of the opera
 - Symphonic poem (or tone poem): 1 movement, orchestral, flexible form
 - Incidental music: for use before or during a play

Hector Berlioz

- French composer (1803 – 1869)
- Father was a physician
 - sent his son to Paris to study medicine, but Berlioz was filled with ‘horror’ by the dissecting room
 - left medicine to pursue music
- Studied music at the Paris Conservatory
- ‘discovered’ a love for the works of Shakespeare
 - fell in love with a Shakespearean actress, Harriet Smithson
 - he wrote her such wild, impassioned letters that she thought he was a lunatic & refused to see him
 - she eventually married him, but they separated after just a few years
- *Symphonie fantastique* was written in 1830 to depict his “endless & unquenchable passion”
 - startled Parisians with its vivid depictions of the weird & diabolical
 - Won Prix de Rome for *Symphonie fantastique*
 - earned him a subsidized two years study in Rome
- unconventional music irritated the opera & concert establishment
 - he arranged concerts at his own expenses
- Worked as music critic for support
- One of the first great conductors & was more popular outside France
 - repeatedly overlooked for important positions & honors
 - composed very little during the years prior to his death at age 65

Berlioz’s Music

- Imaginative, innovative orchestrations
- Pioneered concept of *idée fixe*
- Wrote unconventional music

Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique

Symphonie Fantastique

*by
Hector Berlioz*



Behind the Music: Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique



Nationalism in 19th-Century Music

- National identity grew during romantic period
 - feelings awakened during the French Revolution & the Napoleonic wars
 - military resistance to Napoleon encouraged citizens loyalties to their homelands
 - Citizens, not mercenaries, now fought wars
 - Bonds of language, history, and culture formed: led to unifications creating Germany and Italy who previously had been divided into tiny states
 - lands that had been under foreign rule were finding their native language again
- Composers deliberately gave their works distinctive national identity
 - Use of folksongs and folk dances
 - Created original melodies with folk flavor
 - Wrote operas and program music inspired by native history, legends, and landscapes
- Strongest impact in countries whose own musical heritage had been dominated by music of Germany, Austria, Italy, and France

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

- Russian (1840 – 1893)
- started as a government clerk
- Studied music in Russia
 - Did not start music theory studies until age 21
 - his progress was rapid
 - St Petersburg Conservatory
- Professor of harmony at Moscow Conservatory
 - composed furiously
- Married, divorced two weeks later
 - trying to cover his sexuality
 - attempted suicide & had a nervous collapse
- Supported by benefactress (patron)
 - corresponded but did not meet
 - gave him enough money that he could quit his conservatory position to compose
 - lasted 14 years, but she abruptly cut off the financial support & stopped writing him
 - he was deeply hurt
- Traveled Europe and United States
 - although successfully, he did not find peace
 - conducted the opening concert at Carnegie Hall in NYC

Tchaikovsky continued

Tchaikovsky's Music

- Wrote symphonies, concerti, overtures, operas, and more
 - 1812 Overture (aka William Tell Overture) was written to celebrate Russia's triumph over Napoleon
 - included real canons in the piece
- Fused Russian folk music and European style
- some of his best music was for ballet
 - Romeo & Juliet (1869)
 - Swan Lake (1856)
 - Sleeping Beauty (1889)
 - The Nutcracker (1892)
 - critics did not like this ballet, however it is now his most performed work

Swan Lake - Theme



Sugar Plum Fairy



1812 Overture



Johannes Brahms

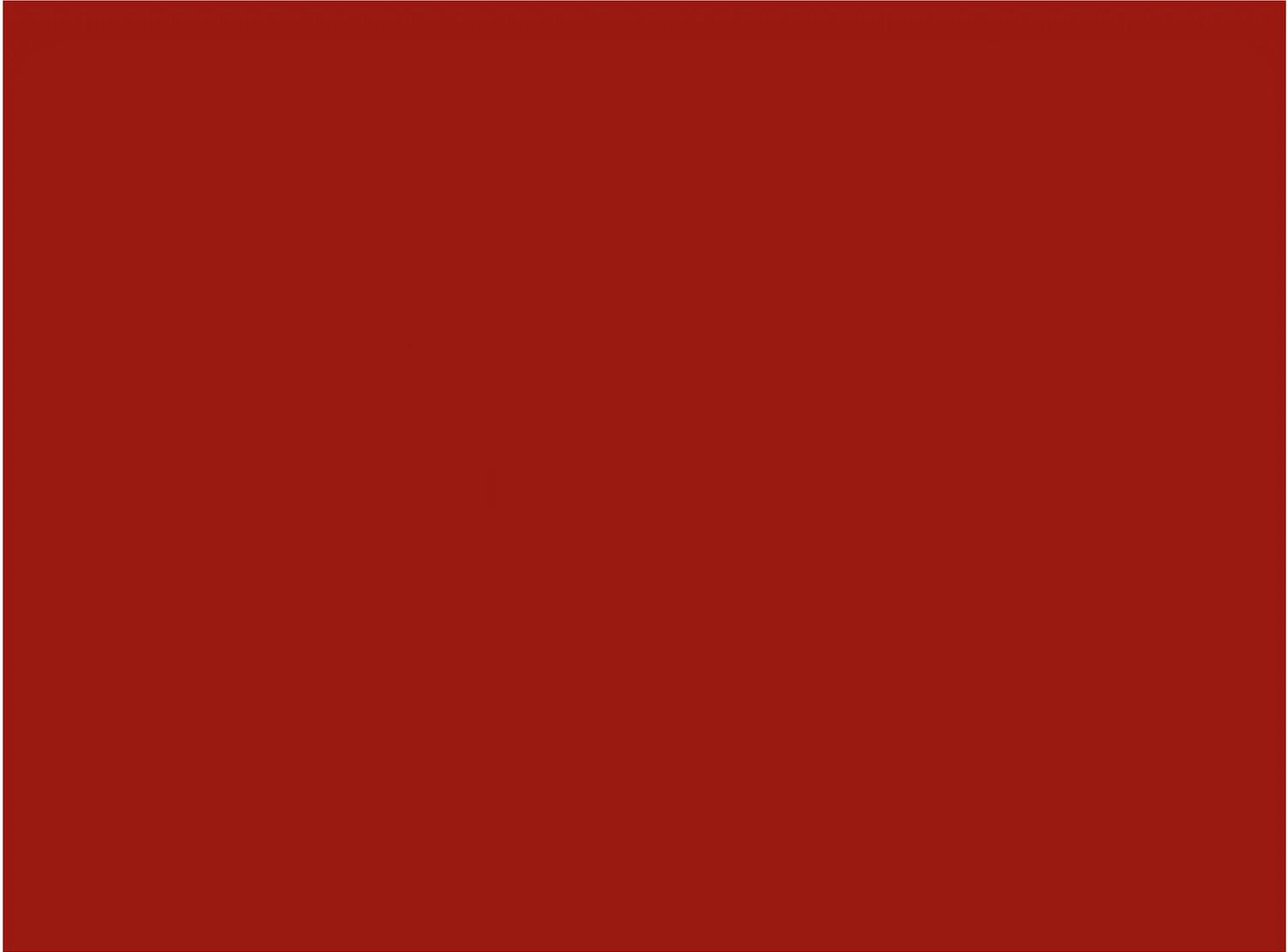
- German composer (1833 – 1897)
 - Son of a musician (father played string bass)
- At 13, he studied piano, music theory, & composition during the day, but at night played dance music in the cafes.
- Became close friends with the Schumanns
 - met while on his first concert tour when he was 20
 - Robert gave Brahms' career a jump start by publishing an article calling him a 'musical messiah'
 - Lived with Clara & her 7 children while Robert was in asylum
 - stayed 2 years, during which Clara was on tour
 - Lifelong friends with Clara; he never married
 - uncertain what their relationship was truly like - they destroyed most of their letters to each other
- Wanted to become the conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra in Hamburg, but when he was passed over for the post in 1862, he moved to Vienna where he remained for the rest of his life
- Conducted the Viennese musical society where he introduced many forgotten works of Bach, Handel, & Mozart.
 - wide knowledge of older music
- lived frugally, although he earned a good income
 - generous to young musicians
- he was shy & sensitive, but hid behind sarcasm & rudeness
- died of cancer in 1896

Brahms continued

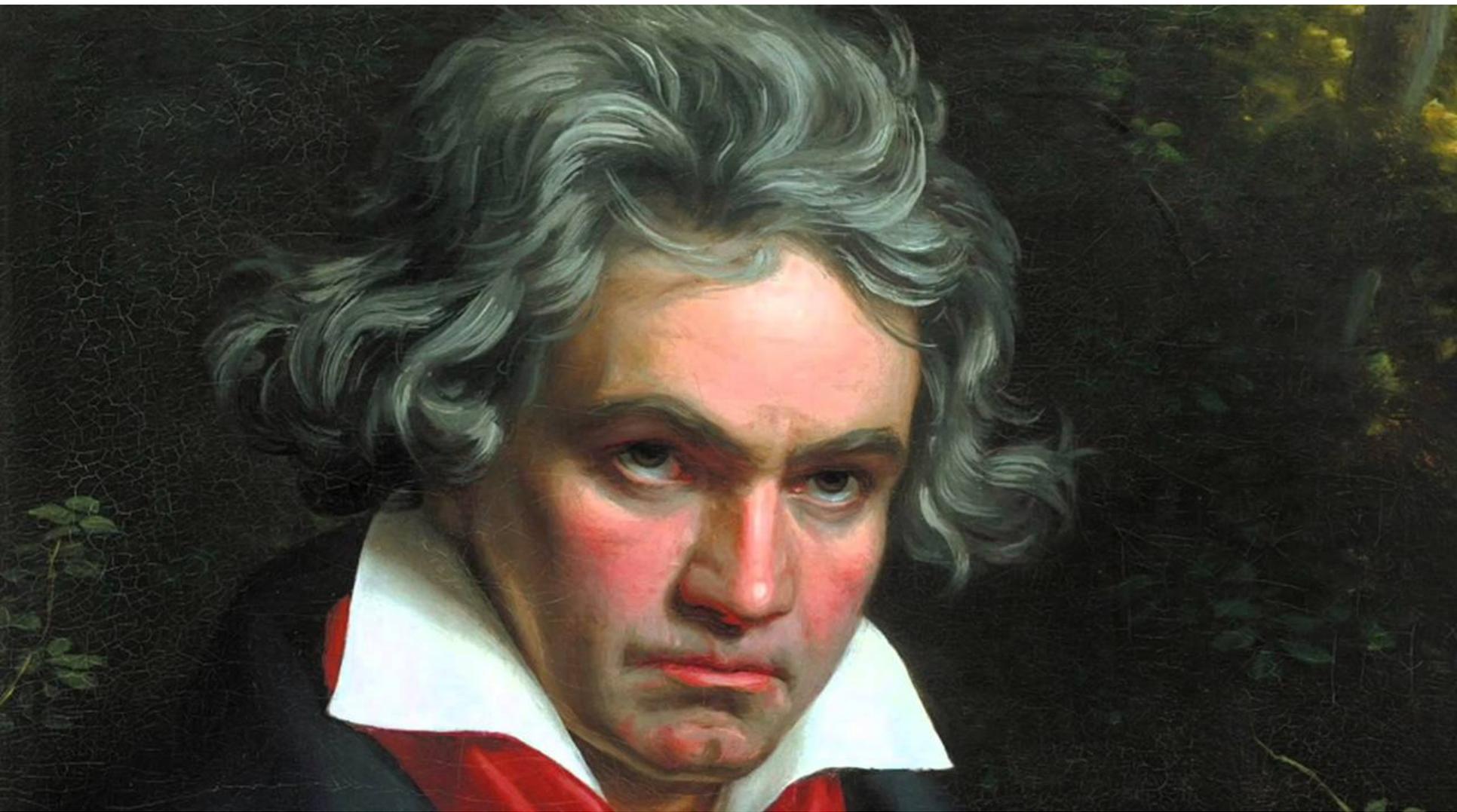
Brahm's Music

- Considered somewhat conservative due to his use of classical forms, however his personal style is evident
- Wrote in all traditional forms except opera - symphonies, concertos, piano music, choral works, chamber music, & art songs
 - large range of moods
 - rhythmically exciting with contrasting patterns & syncopation
 - smooth, continuous melodies
 - rich, dark tone colors
 - favored the mellow instruments like the viola, clarinet, & French horn

Brahms - Lullaby



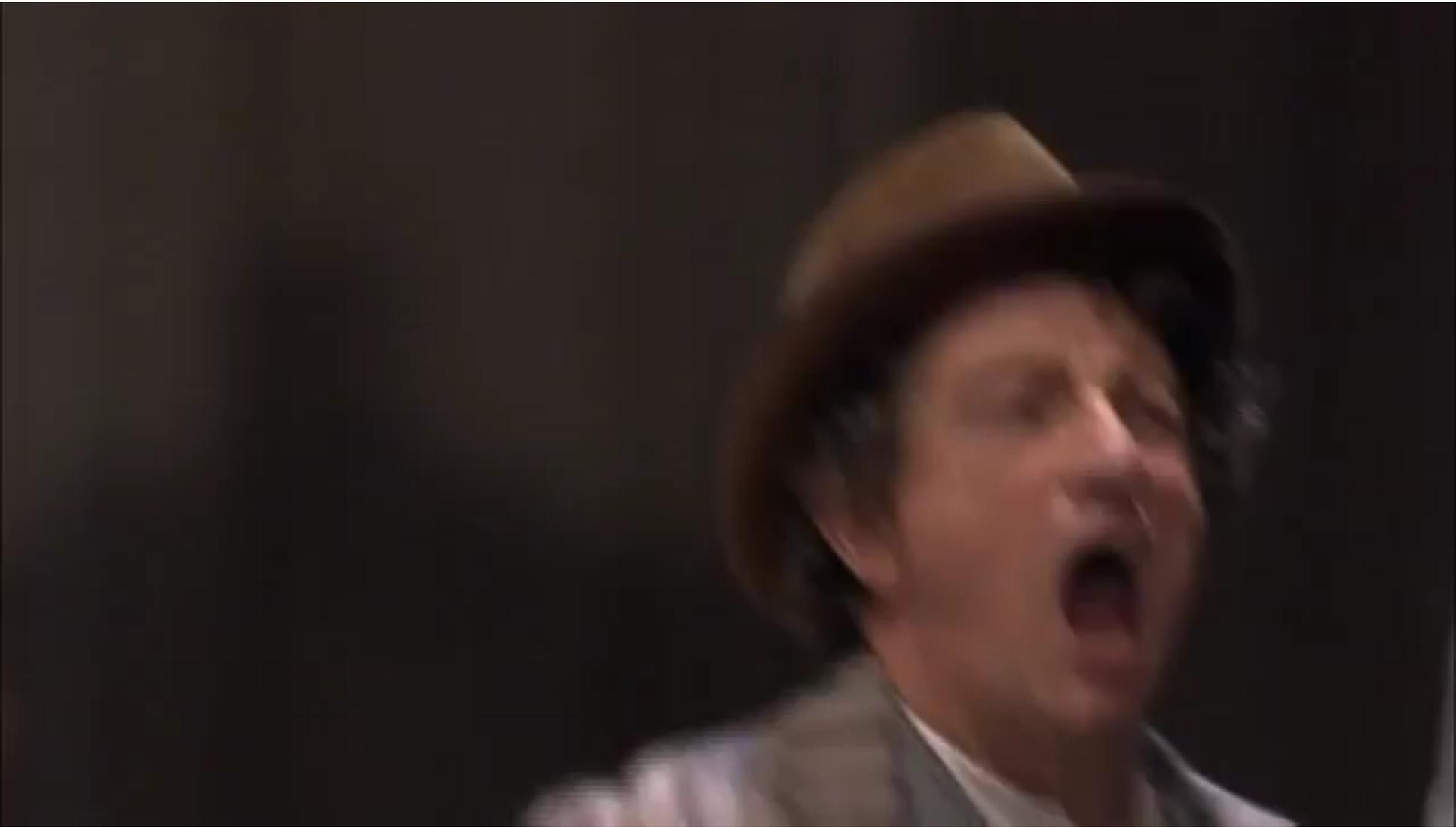
Brahms



Giacomo Puccini

- Italian (1858 – 1924)
- Came from a long line of composer & church organists
- Studied at the Milan Conservatory
- Began life living very simply with little extravagance, but quickly became wealthy & world famous due to the popularity of his music
- Best loved operas of not only the Romantic Era, but of all time
 - Made use of exoticism, setting his operas in foreign places
 - Madame Butterfly is set in Japan
 - Turandot is set in China
 - If he did not use exoticism, he used realism (true to life)
 - La Boheme' - boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy & girl are reunited as girl dies in the boy's arms, the end
 - great sense of 'theater'
 - very selective in picking his librettos
- Short melodies, simple phrases, and realistic dialogue make his music easy to remember & intensely emotional
- Used the orchestra to reinforce his vocal lines

Puccini – O Mio Babbino Caro – (Gianni Schicchi)



Richard Wagner

- Born in Leipzig, Germany (1813 – 1883)
- The son of a clerk in the city police court who died when Richard was only 6 months old.
- He was a precocious child (advanced for his age) who began showing an early interest in literature
 - He wrote his first play in free Shakespearean style at the age of 14.
- He began studying piano at the age of 12, but never really developed into a performer
- His compositions were very popular
 - By the time he was 19, several of his compositions had been performed publicly
 - At 20 he began his professional career as a musician when he became the chorus master for a nearby theater
 - he began composing operas
- He had a very difficult time having his works performed
 - his works called for enormous forces - huge orchestras and grand-scale scenery - most of which was not available at even the largest opera houses in Europe
- Wagner married in his mid-twenties and was appointed as a conductor to the king of Saxony in Germany.
 - For the next six years, Wagner was very busy composing his own operas as well as producing opera of other composers.
- he was forced to flee Germany & was exiled to Switzerland due to his involvement in a political uprising
 - He wrote two books: *The Art Work of the Future* (1850) & *Opera and Drama* (1851).
 - Both describe his approach to opera.
 - He began his work on four music dramas that were all part of what was called *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.
 - Each of the four sections of this epic lasts 3 to 5 hours
 - the entire epic music be performed over a four-day period.

Wagner continued 2

Wagner's ideas on music would set the stage for much of what was to come in the twentieth century, & his works will always be noted for their grand scale & use of extremely large forces. Wagner died of a heart attack in Venice, Italy, in 1883.

Other facts about Wagner:

- early in their marriage (1839), Wagner & his wife had to sneak away at night to be able to leave Latvia - they were heavily in debt. They were smuggled onto a ship bound for London.
- after living in Paris for a few years, they left (again in debt) and moved to Dresden, Germany (1842)
- he discovered German mythology in the mid 1840s and became obsessed with the stories. He began using them as his librettos for his newest operas
- he spoke often of a democratic society. This did not sit well with the nobility and an arrest warrant was issued in 1849. He escaped to Switzerland by using a fake passport (thanks to fellow musician, Franz Liszt). He lived in Switzerland until 1860.
- by 1850 he was in debt again. This time his debt was paid by someone who hired him to compose - a merchant named Wesendonck
- a few years later, Wesendonck offered Wagner and Minna a small house on his property. While living there, Wagner fell in love with Wesendonck's wife, Mathilde. This affair influenced a new opera called *Tristan and Isolde*
- Wagner's marriage to Minna ended in 1862 and he moved to Vienna. He lived in luxury and was soon in debt...again. And yet again, someone paid his debts for him - King Ludwig II of the Bavarian area of southern Germany.

Wagner continued 3

- Wagner fell in love (again) - this time with Cosima von Bulow (daughter of Franz Liszt). Because she was already married, they moved but King Ludwig still supported him financially. Cosima eventually divorced her husband and married Wagner. Once married, they moved back to southern Germany where they raised 3 children.

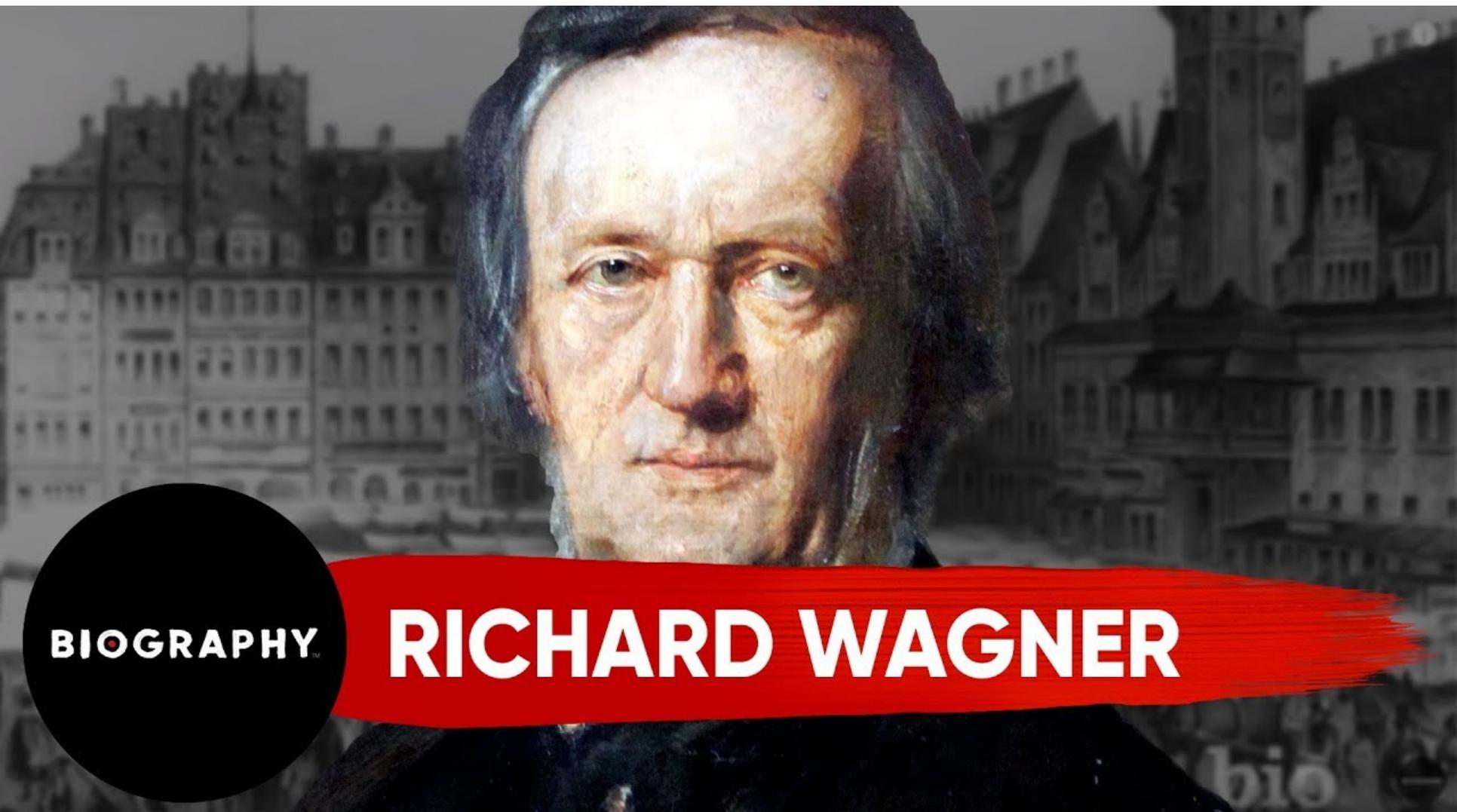
Wagner's Music

- The opera house was his 'temple'
- His works were large, full blown affairs
 - he called them 'music dramas' rather than operas
- No recitatives and arias—just non-stop music
- Huge orchestrations for operas
- He wrote his own librettos
 - based on medieval German legends & myths
 - his characters were larger than life

Wagner – Ride of the Valkyrie



Richard Wagner: Hitler's Favorite Composer



BIOGRAPHY

RICHARD WAGNER