

The Romantic Era

1810 -1900

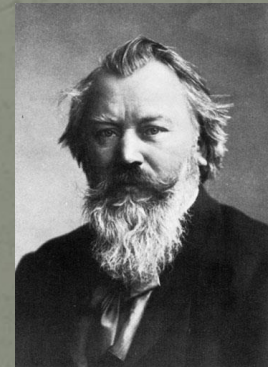
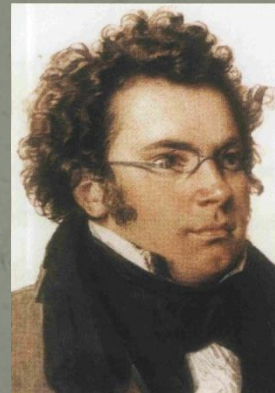
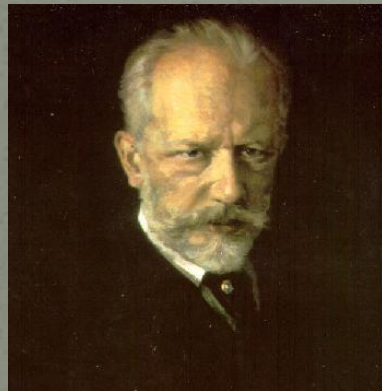


What is the Romantic era?

- **Romantic** is a term used to describe the music and art that was created from about 1810 to 1900.
- **Romantic** composers aimed to express more emotion in their music and looked for a greater freedom in form and design.

What is the Romantic era?

- Can you name any Romantic Era composers?
- Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Schubert and Brahms are all popular Romantic composers.



How can we identify Romantic music?

- In groups, discuss the features and character of 'Swan Lake,' in particular how it compares to the periods of music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical eras.
- A much larger orchestra
- Much more expression and emotion
- Many different 'moods' within a piece
- More 'extreme' – dynamics and tempo can vary wildly within a short section.
- Composers tended to be less driven by the formal structure and uniformity of the Baroque and Classical eras and more by the need to let the music speak for itself and tell a story.



Symphony & Concerto, Opera

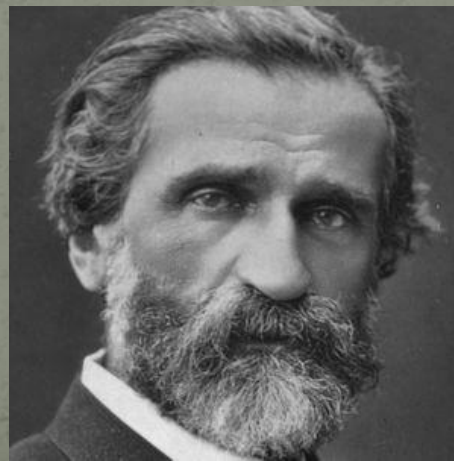
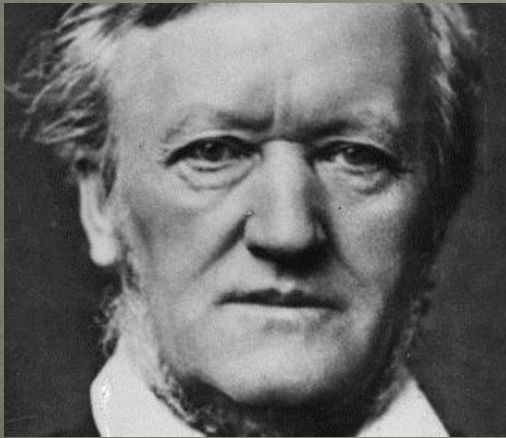
Lets listen to some Romantic era music with some styles that we have already studied...

- The Symphony and Concerto continue to be popular in the 19th Century, expanding in size, length and dramatic scope.
- Similarly, Opera is a very important style in the Romantic era.
- The next few slides will revise these concepts using Romantic Era music. They are not in your booklets.

Opera



- A large scale vocal work. Normally a drama set to music with soloists, chorus, and orchestral accompaniment. It is normally performed in a theatre.
- Wagner and Verdi were famous Romantic composers of Opera.

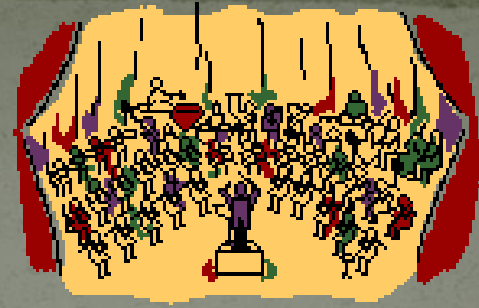


Recitative & Aria

- Recitative: A vocal style where the music *follows the natural rhythm of speech*. It is used in operas to move the story or plot on, and is usually only very lightly accompanied. It is often performed without strict tempo.
- Aria: A fully developed song, usually with full orchestral accompaniment .



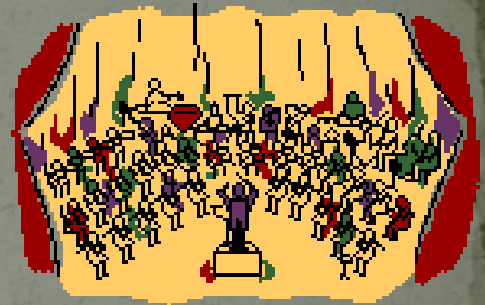
Symphony



- A large scale work for orchestra



Concerto






- A large scale work for Solo Instrument and Orchestra.
- E.g. A piano concerto is written for solo piano and orchestra

Cadenza



- An unaccompanied section of a concerto which allows soloists to display their technical ability on their instrument.
- Cadenzas are most often found in concertos. During the cadenza the orchestra will stop playing and allow the soloist to perform.
- The only concept you learned from National 5 for the Romantic Era was Rubato. Can you remember what this means? Write in your booklets if you can remember.

Rubato



- Rubato means the performer has *freedom of tempo*. The performer can go a little faster or slower whenever he or she feels is musically correct. This allows much greater expression in the music.
- Listen again to part of the cadenza you heard. Listen to the what happens to the tempo. 
- Rubato is a key feature of lots of Romantic music. Compare the flexible, emotional speed of this Romantic excerpt to the strict, structured speed of the Baroque excerpt.  

New Higher Concepts: Lied

- German word for “Song”
- A Lied is a German Romantic-era song for voice and piano accompaniment
- Notable composer of Lieder include Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert



Strophic vs. Through Composed

- As you have learned, a lot of songs are in Strophic form. Some Lieder are Strophic, while some are Through Composed.
- Strophic form – where each verse/chorus of a song uses the same melody. 
- Through Composed – where a song continually develops and introduces new material. No obvious verse/chorus.
- These terms can be applied to other songs too, not just Lieder. 

Tremolando

- A string technique where the player alternates the bow very rapidly causing a ‘trembling’ sound





- Listen to this example from “Swan Lake.” It is used to great effect at both *piano* and *forte* dynamic levels.
- Watch a video to see how it is performed.

Tremelo on the Violin

By: FiddlerMan.com

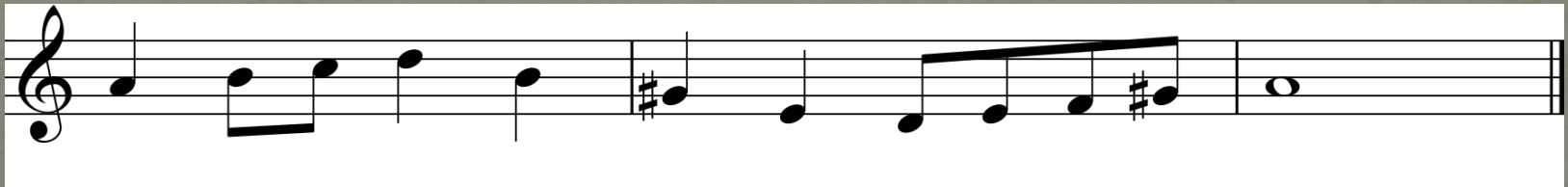
Harmonics

- The high eerie sounds produced on a string instrument by lightly touching the string at certain points.
- Harmonics notation and examples: 
- <http://andrewhugill.com/manuals/violin/harmonics.html> 
- Watch this video on how a violin produces harmonics:

**Learn to play Harmonics
on the Violin
by: Fiddlerman.com**

Harmonic Minor & Melodic Minor

- Revision time!
- How do you identify you are in the key of A minor?
- No Key Signature (Just like C Major)
- G sharp accidentals throughout the piece (not like C!)



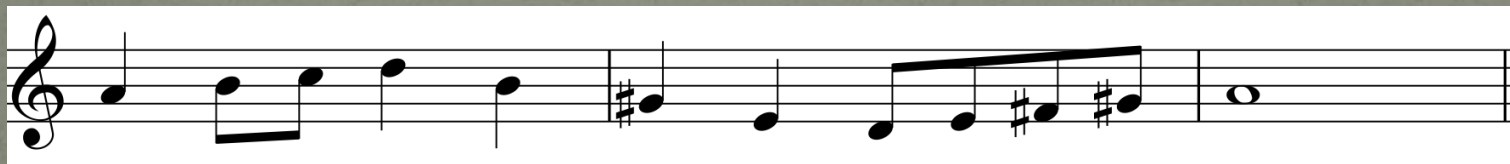
Harmonic Minor

- So far you have learned about the Harmonic Minor (although you may not know it!) with its sharpened 7th degree... i.e. in A minor the G is sharpened.
- This gives a very distinctive sound at the top of the scale as there is a large gap between the 6th-7th degree.
- This has often been described as an Arabian or Egyptian sound!
- Try playing A Harmonic Minor on your keyboards.



Melodic Minor

- However the melodic minor sharpens the 6th AND the 7th degrees – although only in an ascending scale.
- This removes the large gap and therefore the Arabian/Egyptian sound is lost.



- The scale climbs much more evenly to the top, and if you descend it sounds slightly different as you return to the natural notes.



- Try playing A Melodic Minor on your keyboards.



Diminished 7th chord

- A very dissonant chord.
- A diminished 7th chord can be found by playing chord vii^{o7} in a minor key.
- So in the key of A minor chord vii^o would begin on the note



- G#
- Then follow the normal formula to build a chord (take one, miss one) – but remember as this is a “7” chord it has 4 notes not 3.




Diminished 7th chord

- F
- D
- B
- G#



- Play this chord on the keyboard
- This chord contains a G#-D, an interval known as the Diminished 5th, and also G#-F, the Diminished 7th (hence the name.)
- Play these intervals and listen to how dissonant they sound.

Diminished 7th chord

- The Diminished 7th can happen in any style or period, but Romantic composers liked them for their dramatic effect. Here is another Lied that features prominent Diminished 7th chords. 
- It also crops up in modern music.... 
- It's not new to the Romantic era either – composers have always like this effect. Think “silent horror movie soundtrack!” 

Knowledge Check

- Please turn to the second last page of the book for knowledge check questions.

Knowledge Check



- Identify 4 concepts

- a) Diminished 7th**
- b) Acciacatura**
- c) Obbligato**
- d) Trill**
- e) Walking Bass**
- f) Alberti bass**
- g) Rubato**
- h) Modal**
- i) Theme and Variation**

Knowledge Check



- Identify 4 concepts

Identify four features present –

Modal

Tenor

Contrary motion

Bass

Lied

Coloratura

Melodic Minor

Anacrusis

Harmonic Minor

Oratorio

Knowledge Check

- Question 4 – The Voiceover question



Knowledge Check

- Turn to the back page for The Literacy Question

