



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

1825 - 1900

ROMANTIC PERIOD ART



ROMANTIC PERIOD ARCHITECTURE

- * The Romantic Period ushered in new architectural and structural designs that became known as Gothic Architecture
- * Made its initial appearance in France and spread out throughout Europe
- * Characterized by bright and soaring spaces
- * Use of large windows
- * Linear building designs
- * Statues, gargoyles
- * Ribbed vaulting, pointed arches



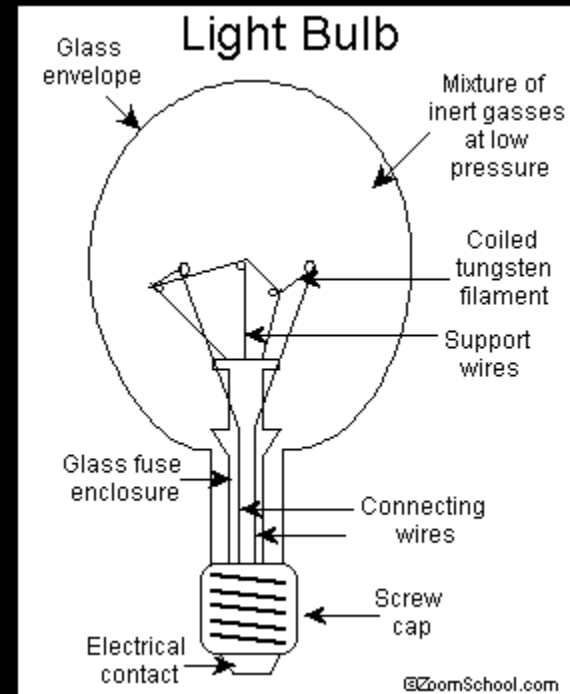
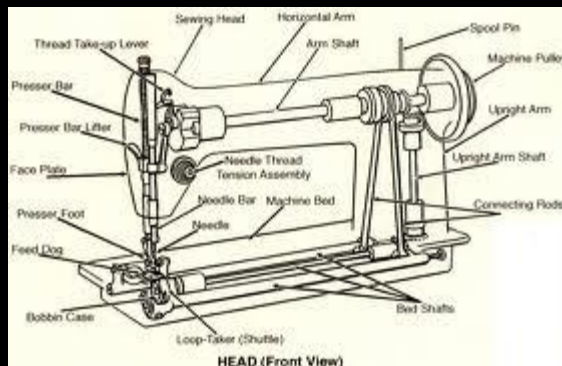
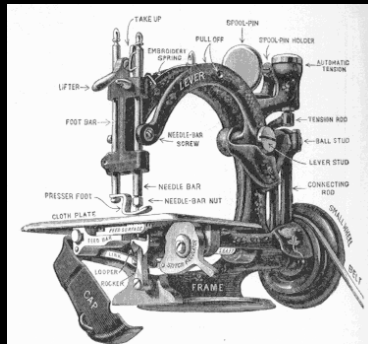
**ROMANTIC PERIOD
ARCHITECTURE**

Cologne Cathedral, Germany



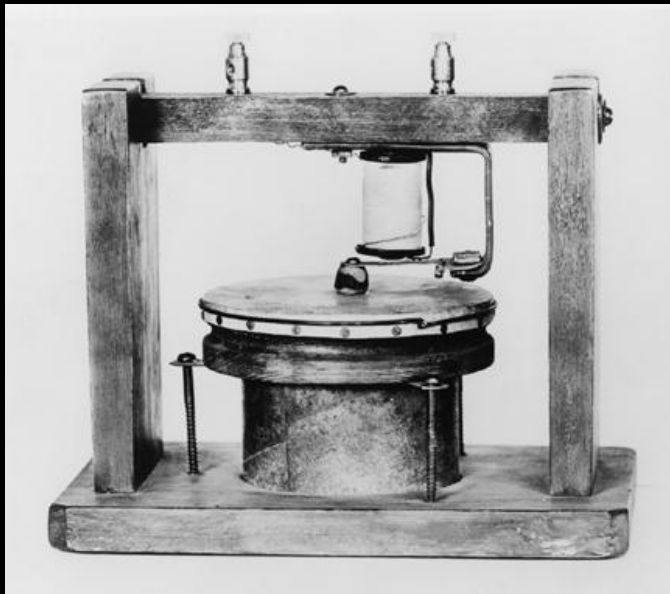
THE ROMANTIC PERIOD A TIME OF INVENTION

Sewing Machine



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD
A TIME OF INVENTION

Telephone



Gramophone



MUSICAL CHARACTERISTICS PRIOR TO ROMANTIC ERA

The Baroque Era

- * Rhythm was very important – a steady beat and regular accents
- * The minuet was a popular dance
- * Phrases are irregular lengths
- * Rhythmic and melodic patterns were repeated
- * Ornamentations (trills, turns, etc.) were used
- * The right and left hands have interesting melodies in the same piece

The Classical Era

- * Symmetrical and well-balanced.
- * Melodies are easy to sing along with and recognize
- * Four measure phrases
- * Right hand often has melody and left hand provides the harmony
- * Forms followed: binary (A – B), rounded binary (A – B – a part of A again), ternary (ABA or ABC)

MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC ERA

- * Instead of writing music which followed definite patterns or forms, composers of the Romantic period were more concerned with how the music made them feel inside....it was very dramatic and spectacular.
- * The orchestra used many more instruments to make bigger sounds. They were capable of making music that was very loud and then very quiet. It often changed from very fast to very slow within the same piece.
- * Operas became important and were very melodramatic. This means death and tragedy were often used as themes. Super heroes and heroines were the main characters. Composers told stories of the super-natural in their music using dragons, goblins, gods and goddesses as their characters.
- * The piano became very popular.

MUSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- * Composers were interested in individualism, imagination and the expression of personal emotion. Romanticism was a rebellion against the order and refinement of the Classical era.
- * Many wrote programmatic or programme music which is music associated with a story, poem, or scene.
- * Romantic composers often projected their own personalities into their works, in an effort to freely express themselves.
- * Romanticists spent time in nature and made it an essential part of the imaginative thought process. They were also interested in fantasy and the world of dreams.
- * Famous writers were Edgar Allen Poe, Victor Hugo and Mary Shelley, who wrote *Frankenstein*.

ROMANTIC ERA MUSIC

- * Musical activity was centered in Vienna and in Germany, but toward the end of the century Paris became the focal point.
- * Some composers wrote *nationalistic* music – they were influenced by the folk songs, dances and legends of their homelands. We can hear the national flavor of various countries such as Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic and Germany.
- * Other composers wrote about countries they had never visited but only imagined and this was called *exoticism*. Musical *exoticism* depicted places that were remote, mysterious or picturesque.
- * Many compositions during this time were sensitive, poetic, melancholy, and sentimental. Others were dramatic, heroic, and intense.
- * Composers wrote performance directions such as tempo, dynamics, pedaling and phrasing marks into the score. Ornaments were commonly written out.

FRANZ JOSEPH SCHUBERT

1797 - 1828

- * Born in Austria, Schubert had many brothers and sisters.
- * He had a happy childhood, but did not want to become a teacher like his father. He wanted to compose music. He never made a fortune in his life.
- * He would meet with his “artist” friends at various coffee houses and beer gardens to discuss music and art. He often wrote songs on the tablecloth because he would not have his writing tablet. He wrote more than 600!!
- * Schubert wrote symphonies – the most famous is The Unfinished (it is number eight in B Minor.)



FRANZ JOSEPH SCHUBERT

1797 - 1828

- * Schubert is especially famous for his other pieces of music, his songs, his piano music and chamber music. Chamber music is written for a small group of instruments to be played in a small “music chamber” or music room.
- * Writing more than 600 songs, he was truly the “song writer” of his day.
- * One of his most famous songs is called, “The Trout.” It is a poem set to music. The poem tells the story of a little fish’s brave fight to keep from being hooked by a very clever fisherman. In Schubert’s chamber piece, “The Trout,” there are five instruments playing and the violin “sings” the song about the trout.

HECTOR BERLIOZ

1803 - 1869

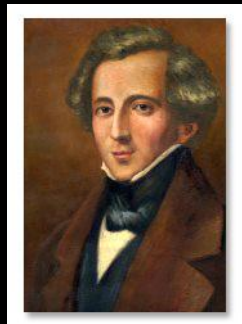
- * Berlioz, the son of a very respected and conventional doctor, was born in a little town in France. His father wanted him to become a doctor but he really wanted to be a musician. He was always a very “different” young man. He wore strange clothes and would not control his feelings or temper, even in public. He was a typical product of the emotional Romantic era.
- * Much of his music told a story, known as programme music.
- * He added many instruments to the orchestra. He put instruments together that had never been combined before.
- * Berlioz had a great love in his life, Harriet Smithson. He used a theme throughout his *Symphonie Fantastique* to represent his “beloved.” This theme is known as “l’Idee fixe” (fixed idea).



FELIX MENDELSSOHN

1809 - 1847

- * Mendelssohn was born in Berlin, Germany to a wealthy, educated family.
- * Musicians and writers often came to visit in his home.
- * Felix was just like his name – happy. He never had to worry about money.
- * His family encouraged him to study music unlike others.
- * He was responsible for bringing Bach’s music to the public.
- * He composed the Christmas carol, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”



FELIX MENDELSSOHN

1809 - 1847

- * Not only did Mendelssohn compose wonderful symphonies, oratorios, overtures, and piano music, he was also a great conductor.
- * He was the first person to ever conduct the orchestra with a baton.
- * He made it out of light whale bone and covered it in white leather.
- * The baton is used to beat time and to keep the players together.

- * Mendelssohn, like other Romantic composers, wrote programme music.
- * One of his most popular examples is his *Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is music written for a play by the famous playwright, William Shakespeare.
- * He wrote the Wedding March – the music sometimes used to announce the new bride and groom.

FREDERIC CHOPIN

1810 - 1849

- ❖ Already a well-known pianist at the age of nine, Frederic lived in a town near Warsaw, Poland. He was asked to play in a public concert.
- ❖ At 19 or 20, Chopin went to Vienna to make himself known as a musician.
- ❖ Later he went to Paris where he performed, composed and taught.
- ❖ He was charming and mothers begged for him to teach their daughters to play the piano. No one wanted to insult him by giving him money so they would secretly put money under his white gloves he left on the mantelpiece.
- ❖ Later in life he died of tuberculosis. Not much was known about treating that disease then, and Chopin died from it when still such a young man.



FREDERIC CHOPIN

1810 - 1849

- ❖ Chopin composed music almost entirely for the piano.
- ❖ He combined folk rhythms of his native Poland (such as in his **Mazurkas** and **Polonaises**) with the more polished sophisticated music of Paris (such as in his **etudes, waltzes** and **preludes**). His style is very easy to recognize – very romantic and elegant – and one must have a light touch and very nimble fingers to play his music..
- ❖ Robert Schumann, the next composer we will meet, helped to make Chopin's music known throughout Europe.

Mazurka: Polish Folk Dance

Polonaise: Stately Polish Dance

Etude: French word for a study or exercise written for practicing a specific thing. Sometimes an etude can be an artistic piece in its own right.

Waltz: A lovely dance form with a 1, 2, 3 rhythm.

Prelude: Usually an introductory work; sometimes a title for a short composition.

ROBERT SCHUMANN

1810 - 1856

- ❖ In 1840, against her father's wishes, Schumann married pianist Clara Wieck, daughter of his former teacher, the day before she legally came of age at 21. Had they waited one day, they would have no longer needed her father's consent, which had been the subject of a long and acrimonious legal battle, which found in favor of Clara and Robert. Clara also composed music and had a considerable concert career, the earnings from which formed a substantial part of her father's fortune.
- ❖ For the last two years of his life, after an attempted suicide, Schumann was confined to a mental institution, at his own request.



FRANZ LISZT

1811 - 1886

- ❖ By his early twenties, Franz Liszt, born in Hungary was considered to be one of the greatest pianists of all time. When he came on stage, women screamed and swooned over him. They fought for some souvenir of his: a piece of his handkerchief – a glove – anything and he loved all this flattery.
- ❖ He was the first to have two pianos placed on the stage, back to back, allowing everyone to see his hands as he performed.
- ❖ He wrote mostly for the piano, a musical genius both as a performer and as a composer. Some of his music was based on folk songs of his native Hungary. He made the tunes more elaborate and called them rhapsodies. He also arranged great symphonic music and opera music for the piano. He was the first to turn the piano sideways for better viewing.



JOHANNES BRAHMS

1833 - 1897

- ❖ Brahms was very close friends with Clara and Robert Schumann. He met Robert on tour and spent much time in their home. Brahms never married so the Schumann children were his “pretend” nieces and nephews.
- ❖ After Schumann was put in an insane asylum, Brahms, although much younger, tried to help Clara with the children as well as helping to popularize Schumann’s music.
- ❖ Brahms was fortunate to have had musical parents who encouraged him to be a musician.
- ❖ He composed both orchestral music and songs as well as piano concertos. His symphonies show much influence of Beethoven. He felt that music should not have to tell a story.
- ❖ His most popular song is known today as “Brahms’ Lullaby.”

