

LEADING COMPOSERS OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

As in the Baroque and Classical periods of musical history, there were hundreds of composers whose music was performed and published during the Romantic period.

But unlike those two previous periods, in which there were a relatively small number of composers whose works are now considered to be musically and culturally significant, there were many more composers in the Romantic period whose names and music are very widely known today.

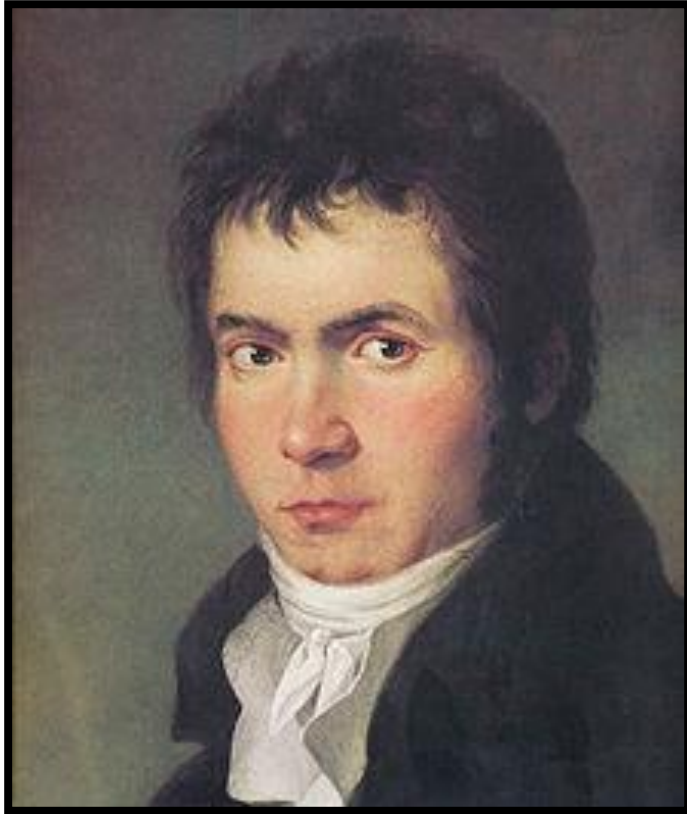
This presentation contains information and links to musical examples for **19** of the **leading composers** of the Romantic Period. All of these composers made significant and lasting contributions to the musical culture of the Romantic Era.

How To Use This Presentation

Please read the information on each slide, focusing on the **last name** of each composer.

Click on the musical links and listen to a minute or two of each musical example.

(Listen longer if you enjoy what you hear!)



Ludwig van Beethoven

German; 1770-1827

composed

9 Symphonies, 5 Piano Concertos,

1 Violin Concerto

Many Works for Piano,
Chamber Music, 1 Opera

Musical Example:

Symphony No. 5 (1st Movement)



Franz Schubert

Austrian; 1797-1828

composed

9 Symphonies,
more than 600 Songs,

Chamber Music,
Solo Piano Music

Musical Examples:

A. Symphony No. 8 in B Minor

The "Unfinished Symphony"
(1st Movement - excerpt)

B. Song:

"Gretchen am Spinnrade"

("Gretchen at the
Spinning Wheel")



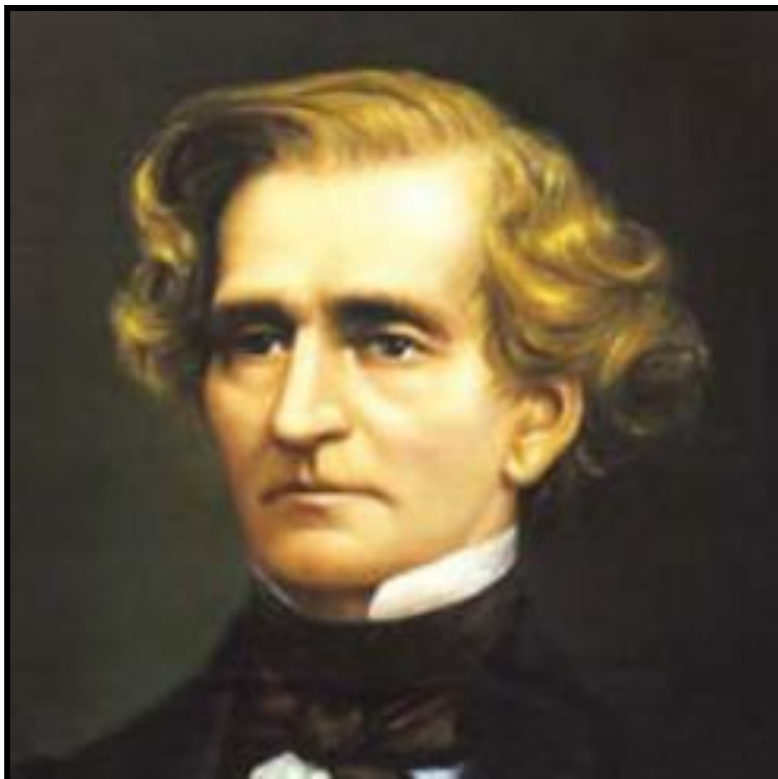
Gioacchino Rossini

Italian; 1792-1868
composed many operas
including
The Barber of Seville
and ***William Tell***

Musical Examples:
Overture to William Tell

(excerpt)

Aria: "**Largo al Factotum**"
from the opera
The Barber of Seville



Hector Berlioz

French; 1803-1869
composed symphonies,
operas, overtures

Musical Example:
"March to the Scaffold"

from
Symphonie Fantastique



Felix Mendelssohn

German; 1809-1847
5 Symphonies, Concertos,
Overtures, Chamber Music
Choral Music

Musical Example:
Overture to A Midsummer
Night's Dream

(composed when
Mendelssohn was 17)



Robert Schumann

German; 1810-1856
4 Symphonies,
1 Piano Concerto
Many Songs (Lieder)
Piano Music

Musical Example:
Song: "**Ich grolle nicht**"
from the song cycle
Dichterliebe
("A Poet's Love")



Frederic Chopin

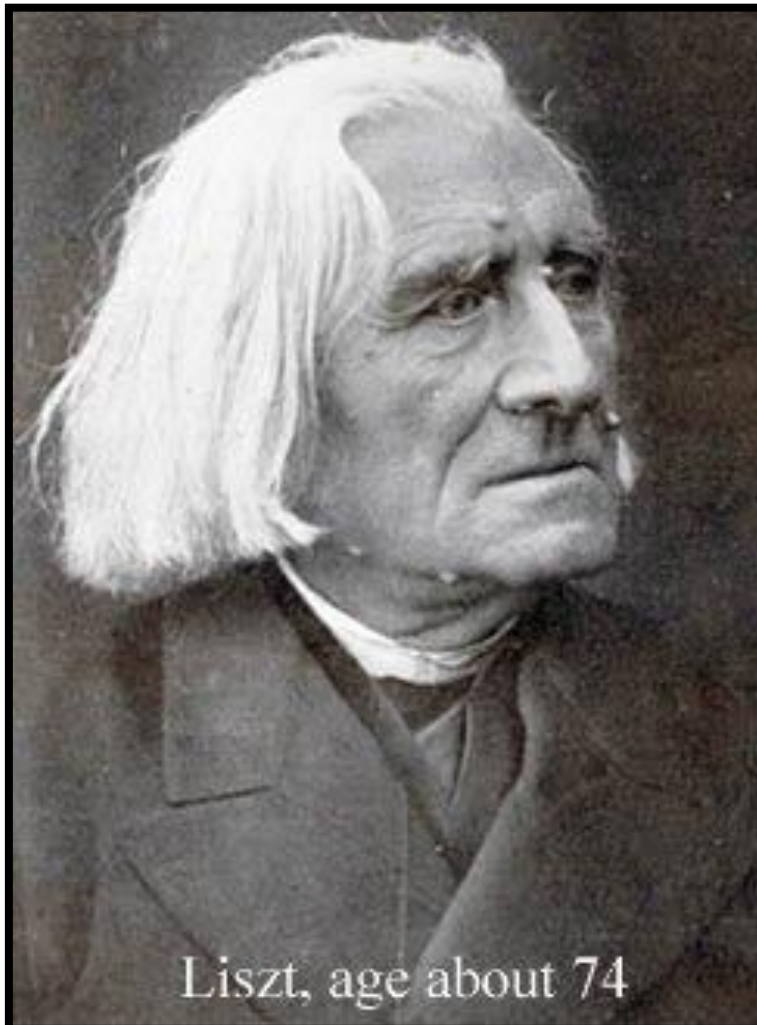
Polish; 1810-1849

Piano Music

Chopin (along with Liszt) was one of the two most important composers of piano music in the Romantic period. His works for solo piano are among the cornerstones of the piano repertoire.

Musical Example:

"Heroic" Polonaise in A-flat



Franz Liszt

Hungarian; 1811-1886

Piano Music,

Tone Poems,

2 Piano Concertos

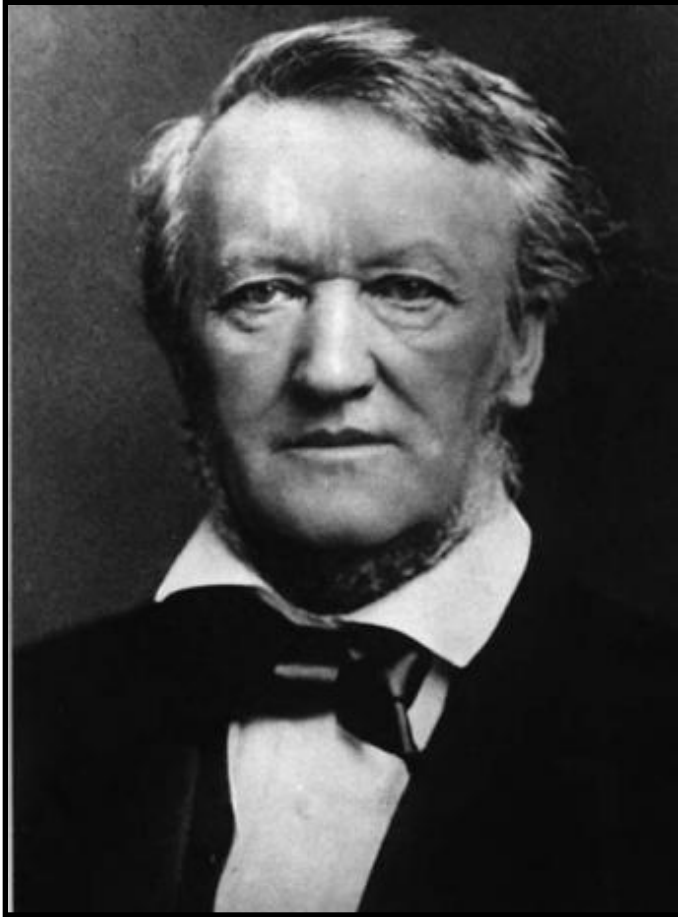
Liszt is one of the most important composers of piano music in the Romantic period.

Musical Example:

"Liebestraum"

("Dream of Love")

Liszt, age about 74



Richard Wagner

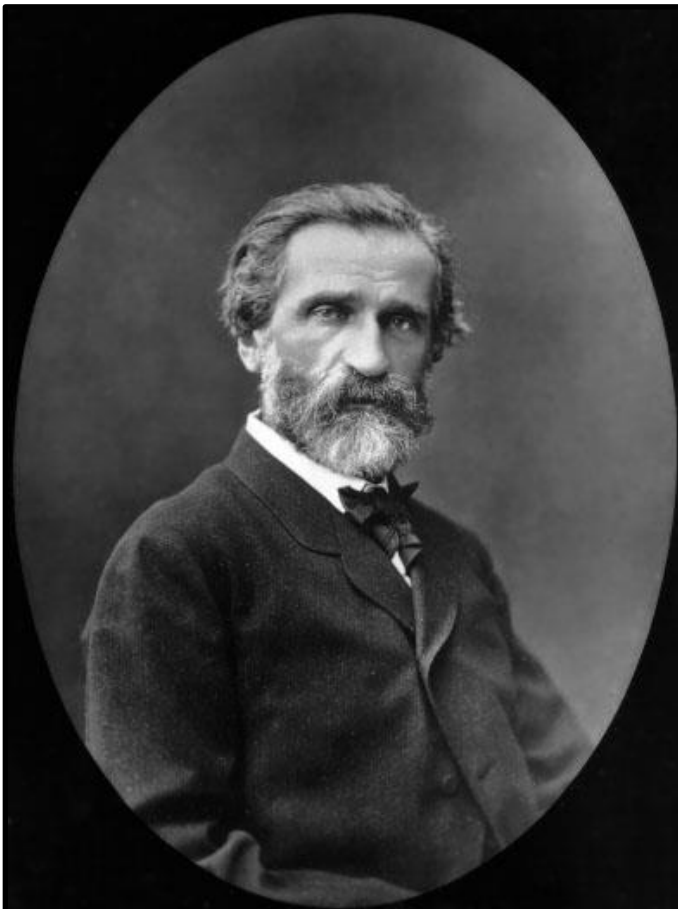
German; 1813-1883

Known for Operas

Wagner composed the most important German operas of the Romantic period including

The Flying Dutchman,
Lohengrin, ***Tannhäuser***,
The "Ring" Operas and
Tristan and Isolde.

Musical Example: [**Prelude to
Die Meistersinger**](#)
("The Mastersingers")



Giuseppe Verdi

Italian; 1813-1901

Operas

Verdi was one of the two most important composers of Italian operas of any period of musical history. Some of his most important operas are

Aida, ***La Traviata***,
Rigoletto, ***Il Trovatore***

Musical Example:
[**Final Scene from Aida**](#)



Anton Bruckner

Austrian; 1824-1896

9 Symphonies,

Choral Music

Bruckner is best known for his 9 symphonies, in which he expanded the symphonic form in both length and scope.

Musical Example:

Symphony No. 8

(Finale)



Johann Strauss Jr.

Austrian; 1825-1899

Waltzes, Polkas & Operettas

Known as the

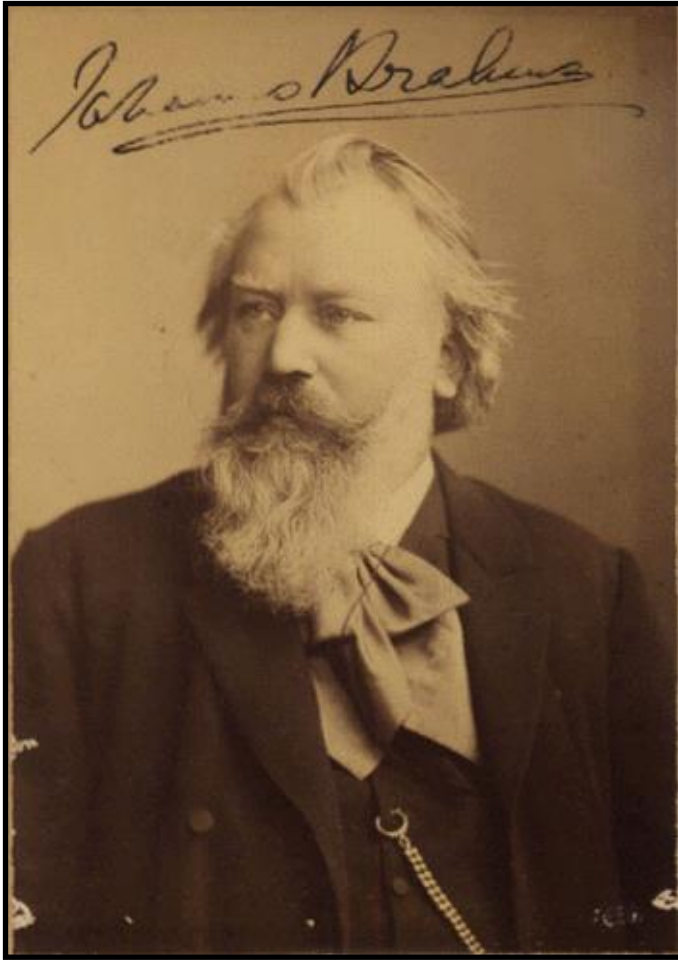
“Waltz King,”

Johann Strauss, Jr. was the leading composer of “light” music during the Romantic period.

Musical Example: ***On the***

Beautiful Blue Danube

(“Blue Danube Waltz”)



Johannes Brahms

German; 1833-1897

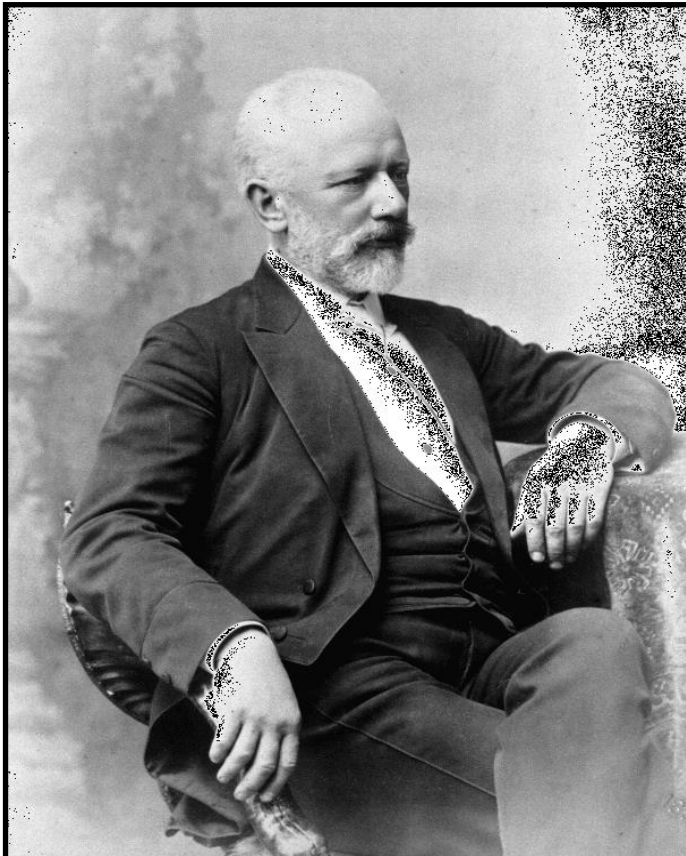
4 Symphonies,
4 Concertos, Songs,
Piano Works,
Chamber Music

Brahms is considered to
be one of the most
important composers of
the Romantic period.

Musical Example:

Symphony No. 2

(Finale; Excerpt)



Peter Illych Tchaikovsky

Russian; 1840-1893

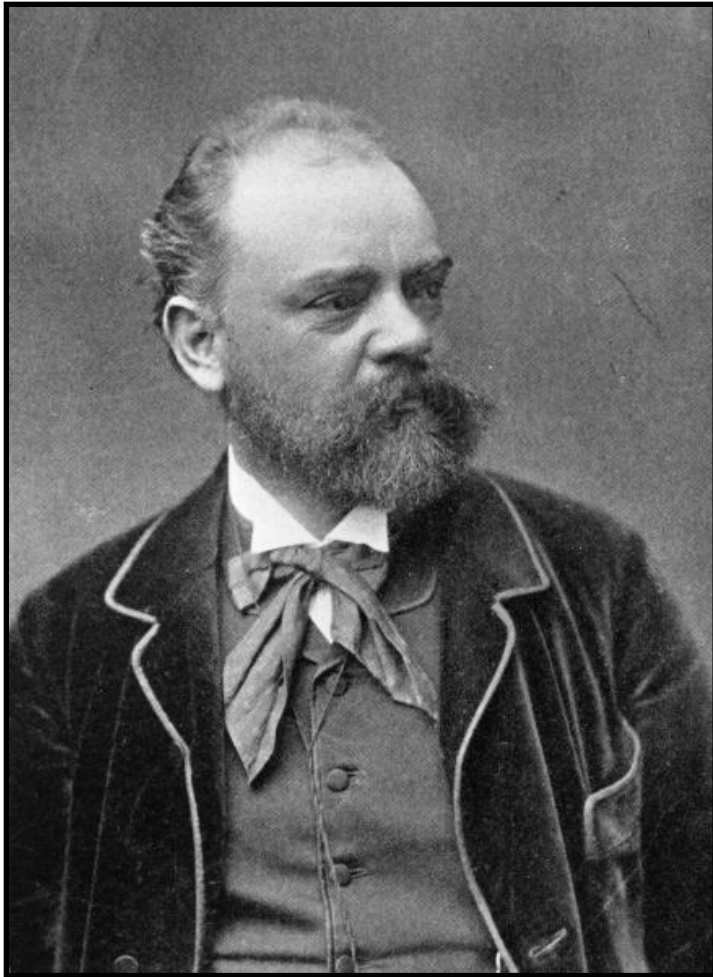
6 Symphonies,
Ballets, Concertos,
Orchestral Works, Operas

Tchaikovsky is also
considered to be one of the
most important composers
of the Romantic period.

Musical Example:

Symphony No. 4

(Finale)



Antonin Dvorak

Czech; 1841-1904

9 Symphonies, Concertos,
Other Orchestral Works

Chamber Music,
Choral Music

Dvorak is one of the most
important composers of
orchestral music of the late
Romantic period.

Musical Example:

New World Symphony

(2nd Movement: Largo)



Giacomo Puccini

Italian; 1858-1924

Operas

Puccini is one of the two most
important composers of Italian opera
in the Romantic period,
or any period in musical history,
including:

***La Boheme, Tosca, Turandot,
Madame Butterfly, Manon Lescaut***

Musical Example:

Duet: "**O soave fanciulla**"
from ***La Boheme***



Richard Strauss

German; 1864-1949

Tone Poems, Operas,
Songs (Lieder)

Richard Strauss is the composer of the most important tone poems ever composed, as well as the most important German operas in the Romantic era after Wagner.

Musical Example:

Tone Poem: [Don Juan](#)



Gustav Mahler

Austrian; 1860-1911

9 Symphonies,
Songs (Lieder)

Mahler is the last great composer of symphonies in the school of Austrian & German composers that included Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner & Brahms.

Musical Example:

[Symphony No. 2](#)

(Finale; Excerpt)



Sergei Rachmaninoff

Russian; 1873-1943

Concertos, Piano Music,
Symphonies, Songs

Rachmaninoff was one of the greatest pianists in history, as well as one of the last of the great Romantic composers. His life and career extended well into the Modern era.

Musical Example:

Concerto No. 2 for Piano
(1st Movement)

The recording of Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 for Piano linked above is a live performance of this work by the composer himself.

(Scroll down to take Quizlet 7.)

Assignment Questions to Answer (Quizlet 7):

Read the following questions, then review the text of this document to find the correct answers. When you have found the answers, then click on this link to submit your answers:

<http://www.musiccoursesonline.org/mod/quiz/view.php?id=1417>

1. Which Romantic-period composer is known for composing the “Unfinished Symphony?” (Select 1)

Franz Schubert

Robert Schumann

Frederic Chopin

Felix Mendelssohn

2. Which Romantic-period composer is known for composing the opera Aida? (Select 1)

Giuseppe Verdi

Giacomo Puccini

Richard Wagner

Vincenzo Bellini

Which Romantic-period composer is known for composing the “New World” Symphony? (Select 1)

Antonin Dvorak

Johannes Brahms

Hector Berlioz

Richard Strauss