

MUSIC IN THE EARLY 19th Century

This is not a comprehensive list of everything you should know about music in the Early Romantic era, and is not a list of questions that you must memorize for an exam. Instead, it's a list of terms (concepts, events, people, places, etc.) you should be familiar with in order to analyze scores and sound recordings, to outline a chronology of basic historical and musical developments in Romanticism, discuss the relationship between music and culture in that period and the relevance of that music and ideas in present-day culture.

Important Historical Events

- The French Revolution (1789-1799): This bloody conflict sought to change political and social organizations that existed in Europe for centuries.
- Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815): A continuation of the revolutionary wars that started during the French Revolution. Led by Napoleon, the French Empire fought various European powers. It began to collapse after defeats in Russia (1812) and Waterloo (1815).
- Revolutions of 1830: a new wave of revolutions begins in 1830, which pursue social change and are often motivated by nationalism. Revolutions take place in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Italy, and Brazil and Portugal.
- Latin American Countries declare independence from European powers and/or win independence wars (1810-1826): Paraguay (1817), Argentina (1818), Mexico (1821), Central America (1821), Venezuela (1821), Colombia (1820), Ecuador (1822), Bolivia (1824), Peru (1825), Brazil (1825), Chile (1826)....
- Revolutions of 1848: A new wave of revolutions erupts. Mainly bourgeois-democratic forces tried to definitively remove the old feudal structures, already under attack since the French Revolution. These revolutions begin in France, and spread through Europe in places such as Germany, Denmark, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Poland, Belgium, Ireland, and the Italian States. This is the largest revolutionary wave Europe has seen and is a turning point in Europe's 19th century history.

What impact did these events have in the development of music and culture in the 19th century? Conversely, what impact did music have in these historical events and culture?

Music Theory, Aesthetics, and Philosophy in the Early 19th-Century:

- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (1790). Kant dismisses instrumental music as trivial, but his general philosophy of art becomes influential to rethinking music as an art in the 19th century.
- E. T. A. Hoffman (1813), and Arthur Schopenhauer (1818) argue in favor of instrumental music as a high form of art.
- Robert Schumann and Friedrich Wieck (teacher and future father-in-law) found the journal *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik* (New Journal of Music) in 1834, devoted in part to music criticism.
- Héctor Berlioz, *Great Treatise on Modern Instrumentation and Orchestration* (1843-1844)
- Music and Values of the Bourgeoisie:
 - General themes in early 19th-Century Music:
 - Nature and the supernatural
 - Death
 - Heroism
 - Nationalism
 - Individualism
 - Legends and Folklore
 - History and the “exotic” past
 - Public music:
 - Virtuosity
 - Public concerts
 - Opera
 - Mostly male performers
 - Rise of orchestral music and the conductor as a figure.
 - Chamber music becomes an art
 - Revival of music of the past: canon develops
 - The composer as “genius”/ “hero”
 - Private music:
 - Amateur music
 - Choral music
 - Pedagogical pieces
 - Male and Female performers
 - Rise of chamber music

Musical Genres and Styles:

- Elements of style:
 - Longer, more complex melodies
 - Chromaticism
 - more complex harmonies
 - modulations to distant keys (modulation to median preferred over modulation to dominant)
 - chromatic ornamentation
 - Forms:
 - Expansion and re-conception of classical forms

- Explorations of alternatives to classical forms: *idée fixe*, programmatic music
 - Virtuosity
 - Vocal genres:
 - Lied (art song)
 - Song cycles
 - Choral songs
 - Oratorios and other sacred music
 - Musical Theater:
 - Opera (Italian, German, French)
 - Zarzuela (Spain and Latin America)
 - Minstrelsy and Vaudeville (U.S.A.)
 - Instrumental genres:
 - Piano music
 - character pieces
 - Chamber music: trios, quartets, quintets, etc.
 - Concerto
 - Overture
 - Symphony

Important People and Places

- People:
 - Beethoven
 - Schubert
 - Schumann (Clara Wieck)
 - Schumann (Robert)
 - Mendelssohn (Fanny)
 - Mendelssohn (Felix)
 - Berlioz
 - Chopin
 - Liszt
 - Gottschalk
 - Mason
 - Foster
 - Rossini
 - Bellini
 - Donizetti
 - Meyerbeer
 - Von Weber
- Places:
 - Paris
 - Vienna
 - “Germany”
 - “Italy”
 - New Orleans