

Early Romantic Composers

The First True Romantic

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

- Crossed the bridge into Romanticism built by his idol, Beethoven
- Composed brilliantly in all forms
- Best known as a composer of over 600 art songs!
- died before reaching his peak as a composer
- Major Compositions:
 - [The Erlking](#) (art song)
 - [Symphony No. 8](#) (The Unfinished)
 - [Ave Maria](#)

The PIANO Greats

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

- German composer
- responsible for serious music criticism, published many reviews of new music
 - once gave Brahms (a young composer) a good review and jump-started his career!
- self-inflicted injury destroyed his playing career
- suffered from tinnitus, believed to have contributed to his mental breakdown
- attempted suicide by jumping from a bridge into the Rhine river; he was rescued and he spent the rest of his life in an insane asylum
 - [Traumerei](#)

Felix Mendelssohn (Bartholdy) (1809-1847)

- German composer
- Jewish – he was greatly persecuted due to his heritage and eventually embraced Christianity and used his mother's maiden name, Bartholdy.
- Spent much of his life in England (more receptive to his music)
- “rediscovered” Bach
- wrote symphonies, concertos, piano music
- Known for:
 - [Bridal March](#) from “A Midsummer Night's Dream”

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

- Polish composer – All time BEST COMPOSER of piano music.
- Virtuoso piano music
- supporter of Polish nationalism
- Known for:
 - [Minute Waltz](#)
 - [Polinaise in A](#)
 - [Prelude in C minor](#)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

- Hungarian composer
- First half of career – piano music, Second half – orchestral works
- “The world's first rock star” - known for his flamboyant performances
- Perfected the [Symphonic Poem](#) (a short orchestral piece)
- Known for:
 - [Hungarian Rhapsody](#) [Orchestral version](#)
 - [Liebestraum](#)