

The Romantic Era – Continued

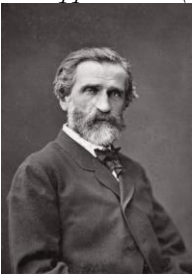
ITALIAN OPERA

Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)



- Italian composer known for writing great Italian operas
- At age 37, at height of his career, he walked away from music and retired for unknown reasons. He did compose some sacred music in his later life.
- Spent rest of his life as a prominent figure in cultural and social life, living his later years in France.
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Barber of Seville](#) (1:50 for familiar theme) [Rabbit of Seville](#)
 - [Thieving Magpie](#) (5:30 for familiar theme)
 - [William Tell Overture](#) (5:00 Morning/7:45 Theme) [Lone Ranger](#)

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)



- Italian composer – first to live into the 20th Century
- “**The Man**” when it came to Italian opera. Also wrote in sacred forms – most notably a Requiem considered by many to be one of the most beautiful ever written.
- Continued to actively compose into his 80’s.
- Greatest Operatic Works –
 - Rigoletto – [La donna e mobile](#)
 - Aida – [Grand March](#) [Final Duet](#)
 - Il Trovatore – [Anvil Chorus](#)

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

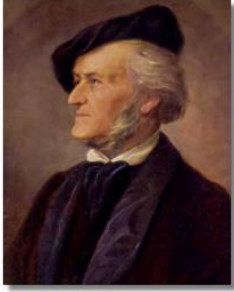


Successor to Verdi as the most important Italian opera composer at the dawning of the 20th century

- Known for his extremely melodic arias that are intensely emotional.
- Greatest Hits –
 - La Boheme (Later became the basis for the Broadway show “Rent”) [Musetta’s Waltz](#)
 - Madame Butterfly - [Un bel di](#)
 - Turandot – [Nessun Dorma](#)

GERMAN OPERA

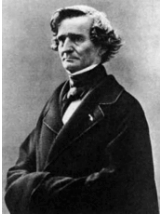
Richard Wagner (1813-1883)



- most important opera of the Romantic era – high point
- called his operas “Music Drama” unfolding with what many have called “unending melody” where it is often impossible to tell the difference between the recitative and aria.
- known for his long, serious treatment of the opera form. Wrote his own librettos, often using German legends and myths as the foundation for the opera.
- heavy use of brass instruments.
- Strikingly dissonant harmonies for the time (especially when compared with Italian opera)
- developed “leitmotiv” – musical theme used to identify a person, thing, emotion
- A political radical and rabid German nationalist, he was also very ego-centric, ruthless and often described as anti-semitic.
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Flying Dutchman - Overture](#)
 - Tannhauser [Overture](#)
 - Lohengrin – [Bridal March](#) [Prelude to Act III](#)
 - Ring Cycle (4 operas telling stories with many intertwined characters)
 - [Ride of the Valkyries](#) [What’s Opera Doc](#)

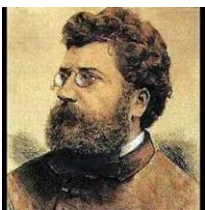
FRENCH COMPOSERS

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)



- French composer known for his loud unconventional methods and innovative orchestrations
- Spent much of his life obsessed with an English actress (Harriet Smithson); his love is expressed in his work Symphonie Fantastique. They married in 1833, separated in 1842.
- Suffered from an opium addiction; also represented in the Symphonie Fantastique.
- Greatest Hits –
 - Symphonie Fantastique- [March to the Scaffold](#) [Dream of the Witch’s Sabbath](#)

George Bizet (1838-1875)



- Particularly remembered for his opera, Carmen. [Overture](#) [Habanera](#) [What’s Opera Arnold](#)

RUSSIAN COMPOSERS

Nicholi Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)



- Known as the master of orchestration
- Leader of the Russian school (The Mighty 5)
- Very nationalistic
- Master teacher
- Operas, symphonies, overtures, symphonic poem, etc.
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Scheherazade](#)
 - [Flight of the Bumblebee](#)

Modest Mussorgsky (1835-1881)



- One of the Russian 5
- very limited output
- suffered from alcoholism which cut his career and his life short
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Night on Bald Mountain](#) [Fantasia](#)
 - [Pictures at an Exhibition](#)

AUSTRIAN COMPOSER

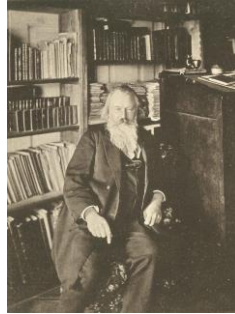
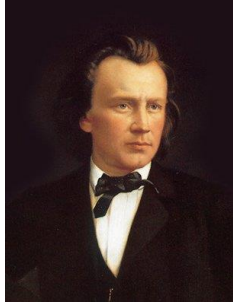
Johann Strauss (1825-1899)



- The Waltz King
- Wrote in the popular dance music of his day – Waltz, Polka, etc.
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Blue Danube Waltz](#)
 - [Skater's Waltz](#)
 - [Tales from the Vienna Woods](#) (Theme 3:30)
 - Opera – Die Fledermaus

Great German Traditionalist

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

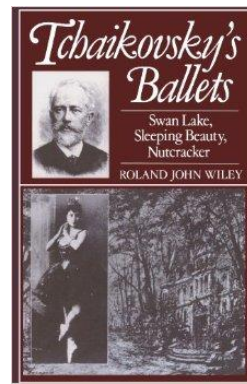


JOHANN STRAUSS AND BRAHMS
From a photograph by Kitzmann, made in Vienna
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- German Composer
- 3rd of the “3 Bs” of music history (Bach, Beethoven, Brahms)
- Leading composer of symphonies in the Romantic era
- Composed in all forms except for opera
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Lullaby](#)
 - [Hungarian Dances](#)
 - Requiem – [Mvt 4 - How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place](#)
 - 4 Symphonies - [Symphony #4 Mvt 3](#)

Most Beloved and Recognized Romantic

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)



- THE RUSSIAN ROMANTIC
- known for his outstanding symphonies and ballets
- most talented of all Russian composers
 - other Russian composers shunned him for not being Russian enough
 - his more universal approach to composition made him more widely acclaimed
- Greatest Hits –
 - [Nutcracker Ballet](#) ([Nutcracker Suite](#))
 - [Sleeping Beauty](#)
 - [Swan Lake](#)
 - [1812 Overture](#) (Final theme 13:00)