



Music Virtual Learning

Music Appreciation/Romantic Era Intro

April 21, 2020



Lesson: April 21, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to the political and musical characteristics of the Romantic Period.

Bell Work

Watch this short video set to music of the Romantic Period. You will read about some of the major aspects of the period. If you need to pause the video to re-read and absorb the information, please do. It moves pretty quickly.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWRDRRZpwDU>

Romantic Period-1825-1900

The Romantic Era spans from 1825-1900.

As we've seen with other eras, there is a distinct move *AWAY* from what came before. The Baroque period gave us music that was highly decorated, complex, operatic in nature and dramatic. That was followed by the classical era which gave us music that was restrained, organized, refined and free of drama. We will see the pendulum swing the other way in the Romantic period as we will move towards great expression of emotions and extreme complexity of music.

Political Happenings

1825 - John Quincy Adams elected sixth US President

- 1828 - Wellington becomes Prime Minister
- 1833 - Emancipation Act receives its final reading, abolishing slavery in British colonies
- 1834 - Poor Law Reform Act
- 1836 - Siege of the Alamo; Davy Crockett killed
- 1848 - Gold discovered in California; beginning of the gold rush
- 1848 - Second Republic proclaimed in France
- 1848 - Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte elected President of France
- 1850 - California admitted to the Union

Arts Happenings

1824-Beethoven completes his 9th Symphony

- 1827-Leatherstockings Tales-James Cooper-inspired by real life Daniel Boone.
- 1845-Edgar Allan Poe writes The Raven and other poems
- 1846-Chopin completes his final Polonaise-based on traditional Polish music and inspire a feeling of nationalism.
- 1853-Verdi's La traviata is performed in Venice-The opera concerns a famed courtesan dying of consumption.

Why is this era called “Romantic?”

When we think of the word “romantic,” we think about love and people doing things for others that would generate feelings of love. Since the beginning of secular music in the Renaissance period, there have been songs written on the topic of love. Most of those songs were written because of the composer’s personal experiences.

While there is music in the Romantic Era that is inspired by love, it is not called the Romantic Era because of that topic. In fact, it has nothing to do with it. The Romantic Era gets its name because composers are writing music with **uninhibited expression**. It’s the use of ALL emotions and drama that gives the era its name.

2 ideas....one old and one new

Classical Period- constraints on harmony, melody, and a controlled sound and a distinct formal structure.

Romantic Period- strays away from conventional harmonies and opens a new door for a new sound.
Uninhibited expression!

Romantic Characteristics

- Free forms
- Song like melodies
- Dramatic contrasts of dynamics and pitch- extensive chromaticism
- Big orchestras
- Songs about far off lands, the distant past, dreams, night and moonlight, nature, seasons, joy and pain of love, fairy tales, the supernatural, magic.
- Extremely complex and technically difficult music

What do you know?

List 4 adjectives that describe the romantic era that are not about the music..

Classical

1. clean

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Romantic

1. dramatic

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Musical Ideas

What is the difference in musical ideas between the Classical and Romantic Era?
Refer to slide 8 if you need assistance.

Classical:

Romantic:

Musical Characteristics

List 4 characteristics of Romantic Era Music:

1. Uninhibited Expression

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Application Through Listening

Listen to these two pieces from the Romantic Era. Can you hear some of the descriptive words that you used and read from the previous slides.

Un Sospiro-Liszt-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JXMdpGpfBU>- Listen specifically for the melodic line that is prominent, as well as contrasts in emotion conveyed in this performance.

Erlkonig-Schubert-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS91p-vmSf0>- The animated video depicts what the song is about since it's in German. How does this compare with some of the topics composers chose to write about during this era? The english translation is linked here: https://germanstories.vcu.edu/goethe/erl_dual.html

5 Takeaways from the lesson

What are 5 big ideas in regards to the Romantic Era.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Thank
You!

A vibrant, 3D-style graphic of the words "Thank You!". The word "Thank" is rendered in a bubbly font with a color gradient from purple to pink. The word "You!" is in a similar bubbly font with a color gradient from blue to green. The text is surrounded by several yellow stars and colorful, striped rectangular shapes that resemble confetti or streamers. The entire graphic is set against a light green background.