



Music Virtual Learning

Music Appreciation/Nationalism and Program Music

April 22, 2020



Lesson: April 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to nationalism and program music in the Romantic Era.

Bell Work:

Please answer the following questions as a review from the last lesson:

1. Why is the Romantic Era called Romantic?
2. What are 3 characteristics found in Romantic Era Music?
3. What are the dates of the Romantic Era?
4. How is the Romantic Era more progressive than the Classical Era?

Terms of the Day

Nationalism- is defined as a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or **supranational** groups.

In short: There are characteristics and a certain pride in country that make a nation superior to all the others.

Program Music- is defined as music intended to suggest a sequence of images or incidents.

Simply put: Program music is music that tells a story or expresses images through music.

Understanding Nationalism

Think about America and some of the things that we do that express our sense of Nationalism.

- Singing the National Anthem at important events
- We say the Pledge of Allegiance daily
- We have folk songs that have been passed down for many generations that are specific to our country.
- Many families wave flags outside on houses.
- We have a national holiday, the 4th of July, in which we celebrate the birth of our country.
- Can you think of additional ways we display nationalism in America?

Nationalism=Pride in Country

Watch this video for further explanation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtp7ms_Yp4k



Those with an extreme sense of nationalism believe that there is no other country better than the country of their origin/birth. They love their country and are proud citizens of their homeland. They acknowledge that while there may be some issues, maybe in the social and political aspects of their country, they are still proud to be a citizen.

Nationalism in Romantic Music

Every nation has certain musical characteristics that are specific to them.

America:

- Patriotic music composed specifically for love of country.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-7XWhyvIpE&t=3s>
- Music that is descriptive of various locales in America.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsReWx9XdNs>
- Music that originated here. Jazz is distinctly American and reflects the freedom in rhythm, harmonic structure and improvisation that we enjoy daily as Americans. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em_o69_cZng

Romantic Era Composer Origins

Most of the big Romantic Era Composers were Polish, Hungarian and German. Let's take a quick glance at each country's characteristics.

Poland- music is based off of dances, such as a polonaise or mazurka. Chopin wrote several pieces based off these dances.

Chopin Polonaise- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWBT6vOKu0Q>

Chopin Mazurka, composed at age 17- <https://youtu.be/zpGfzkIOBVY?t=37>

Hungary

Hungarian music is characterized as music that experiments with:

- Minor keys
- Repetitive motives/musical themes
- Music that starts slowly and then increases in tempo
- Reflect the dance culture and folk music of Hungary

Hungarian Dance by Brahms- Brahms was actually German, but incorporates all of the characteristics of Hungarian music beautifully.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O192eo9zbT4>

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Liszt- Liszt is Hungarian-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdH1hSWGFGU>

Germany

Germany boasts some of the most notable composers in classical music history throughout all genres. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and Wagner are several of the nation's most prominent composers. Their music has stood the test of time and is still widely performed today.

German Romantic music characteristics are as follows:

- Extremely Emotional
- Somewhat of a return to the forms/antiquity from previous eras
- Extensive use of the German language even in sacred music, which up to this point had been strictly in Latin.

German Musical Examples

Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata the 3rd Movement-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zucBfXpCA6s>

German Requiem or the Brahms Requiem by Brahms-The piece was written in the format of a Requiem, which is a sacred mass for the dead. His big inspirations for writing the work were the death of his mother and his best friend and fellow composer, Robert Schumann. We find antiquity in this piece as it hearkens back to the past in the form of a Requiem, uses the pipe organ and musical elements learned from Bach. Instead of the text being in Latin, Brahms used German demonstrating a sense of nationalism. This recording is in English.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwnZ748e3CA>

Program Music

Program music is music that tells a story or is descriptive of some kind of noun (person, place, thing). Listening to program music is almost like listening to a story being read through song. Program music will have a specific and descriptive title such as, “A Song Without Words, by Mendelssohn. The title suggests that we will hear a melodic line as if someone were signing, but there are no words. Listen to the clip of this piece. You will hear a melodic line that clearly could be sung, but is played over a beautiful accompaniment (piano part that would play with the singer).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIU70B6K7Ls>

Scenes from Childhood

Robert Schumann, one of Brahms' best friends, wrote a collection of 13 pieces entitled, "Scenes from Childhood." We can deduct based off the title that the music will depict different scenes or happenings in a child's life. These pieces are very short, like a child's attention span, and cleverly depict everything from an important event in a child's life to a child falling asleep, and captures the wild imagination of a child. Let's listen to a couple pieces from the work.

Important Event- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR7m9yws_pU

Pleading Child- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOzv8b5BtzM>

Songs About Travel

Composers of this time did far more travel than those of previous eras. This was in part because the globe as we know it today was discovered and people were anxious to visit and discover new lands. Composers also liked to share their music with other parts of the world and collaborate with other composers and musicians. Lastly, they were often inspired to write new music based off experiences they had while travelling. Mendelssohn wrote Fingal's Cave Overture as he sat in the cave during his travels to Scotland in 1829. You can hear in the music the surge and retreat of the waves, the echoes of the cavernous space, and the beauty he described in his own words, “how extraordinarily the Hebrides affected me.”

Take a listen. On the next slide there are some pictures of the cave to help you with imagery as you listen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DURLkSebck>

Fingal's Cave



Program Music Practice

As stated previously, it's not program music unless it is depicting a story or a noun (person, place or thing).

Ex. of program music title=Fingal's Cave Overture

Ex. of NON program music= Sonata No. 4 in G Minor

On your own, find 2 more examples of program music and 2 more examples of non program music from the Romantic Era. Reminder: The music you are looking for must be composed between 1825-1900. You can use composers from the previous slides to guide your search.

Grand Finale!

We have talked in great detail today about nationalism and program music!
Answer the following to end our day today.

1. What is nationalism?
2. How do we encounter nationalism in music?
3. What three countries were a majority of Romantic Era composers from?
4. What is program music?
5. Would you prefer to listen to program music or non program music?



Thank You