



# The Romantic Period

1825 - 1910

# The Romantic Era

- Where Classical had been reason, order, and rules, Romantic was **emotion, adventure, and imagination.**

- OPERA**

- Written to show off skills
- Implemented Dissonance and modulation

**Sounds harsh  
to the ear**



**Changing from 1 key to another**

- Huge interest in songs written as part of a cycle: a complete story told with several related songs.

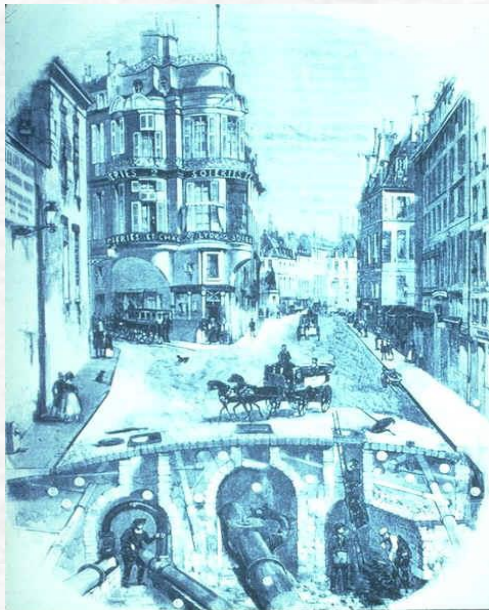
# What was happening in the world during this period?

- ✓ 1825 - Erie Canal opens
- ✓ 1838 - Invention of photography
- ✓ 1846 - Neptune discovered
- ✓ 1859 - Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of the Species*
- ✓ 1861-1865 - American Civil War

- ✓ 1869 - Transcontinental Railroad completed
- ✓ 1872 - Brooklyn Bridge opens
- ✓ 1876 - Telephone invented
- ✓ 1877 - Phonograph invented
- ✓ 1886 - Statue of Liberty presented to New York
- ✓ 1893 - Henry Ford builds first car
- ✓ 1903 - Wright Brothers first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, NC
- ✓ 1905 -  $E=mc^2$  - Einstein's Theory of Relativity



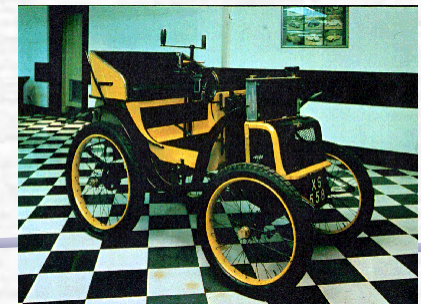
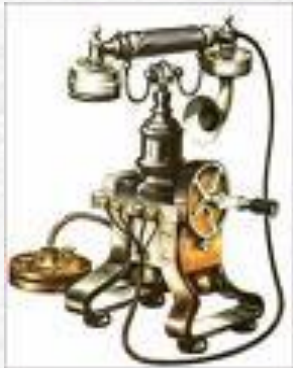
# Social and Political Influences



- Industrialism
- First occurred in Britain
- Power shifted from aristocratic landowners to middle class city dwellers
- Populations moved from an agrarian (rural) center to an urban center



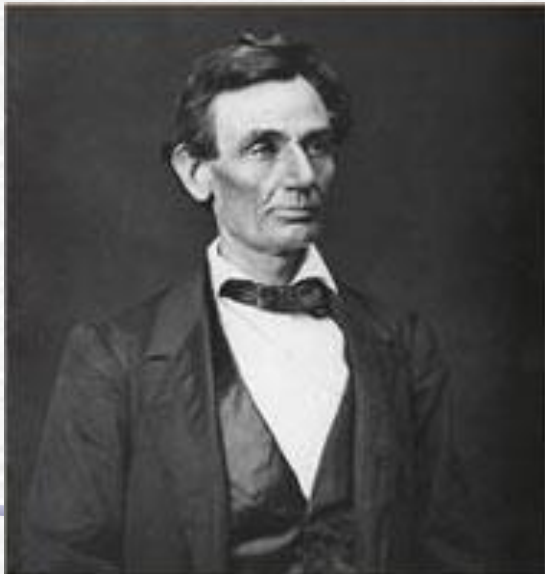
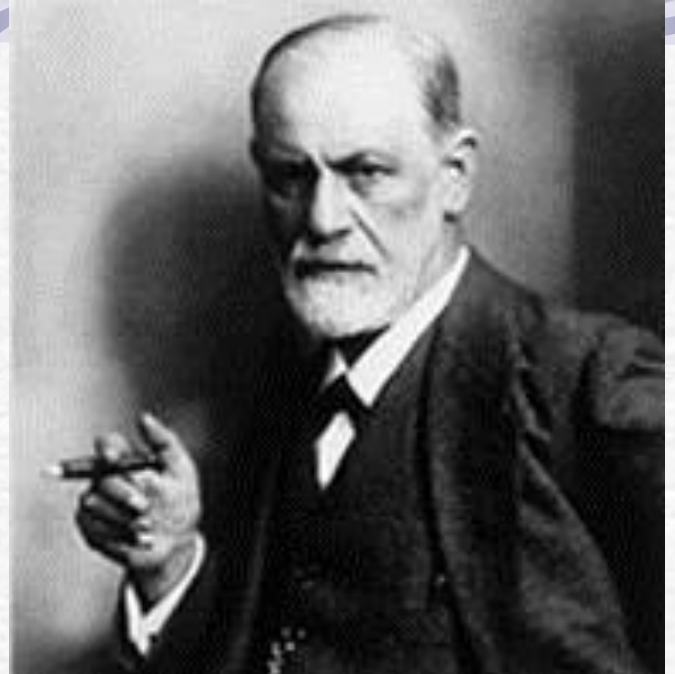
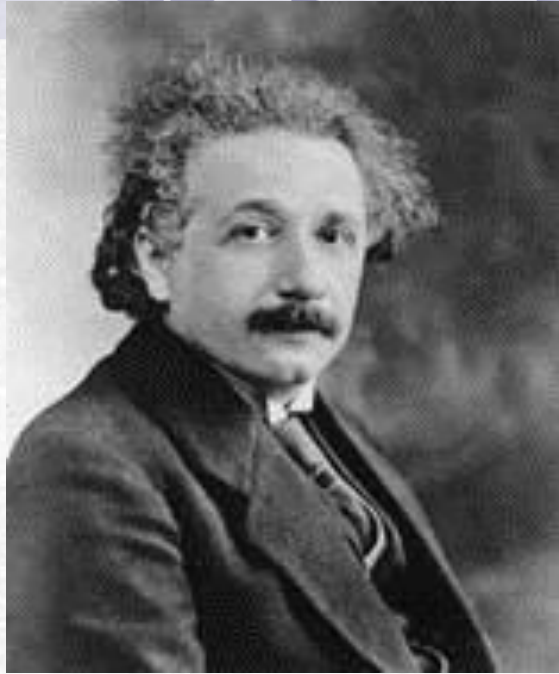
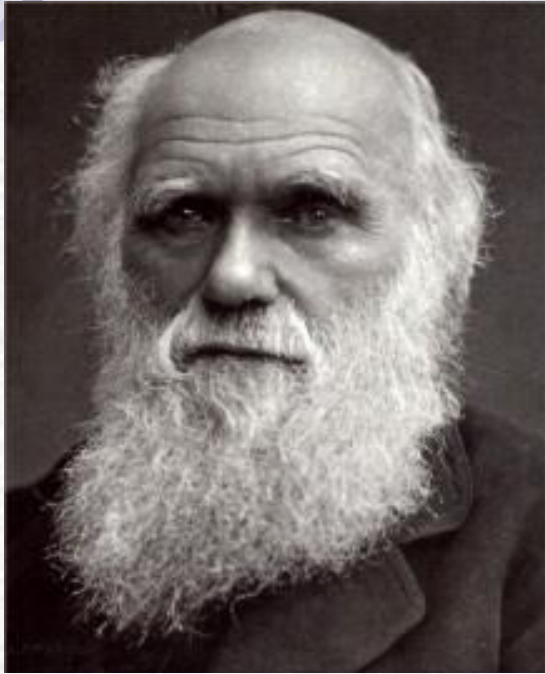
# Inventions



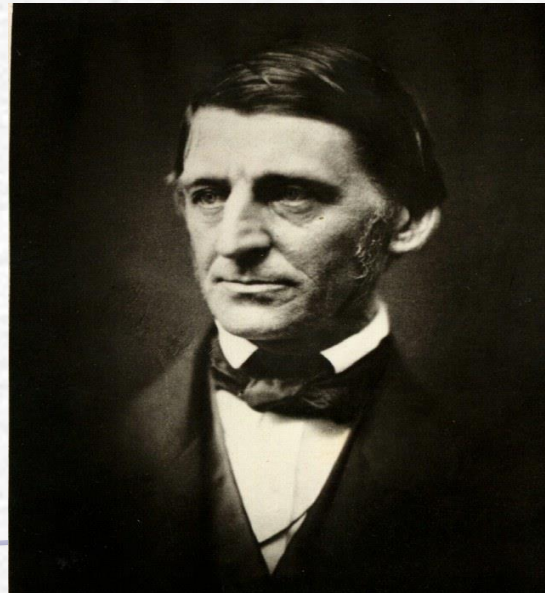
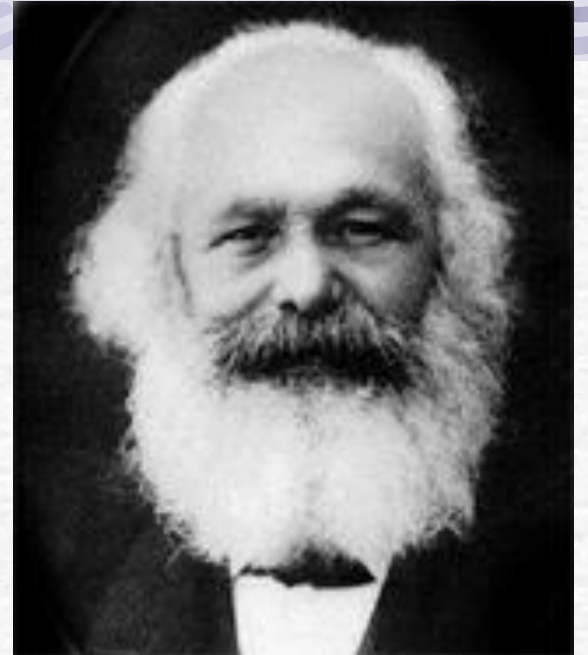
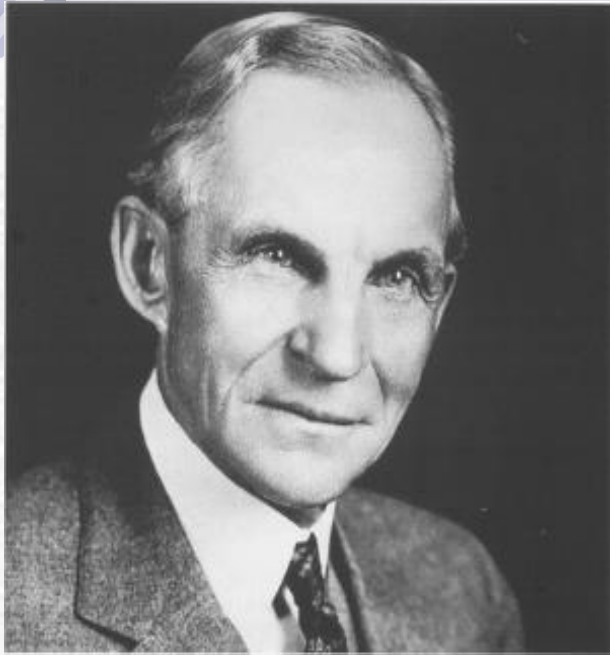


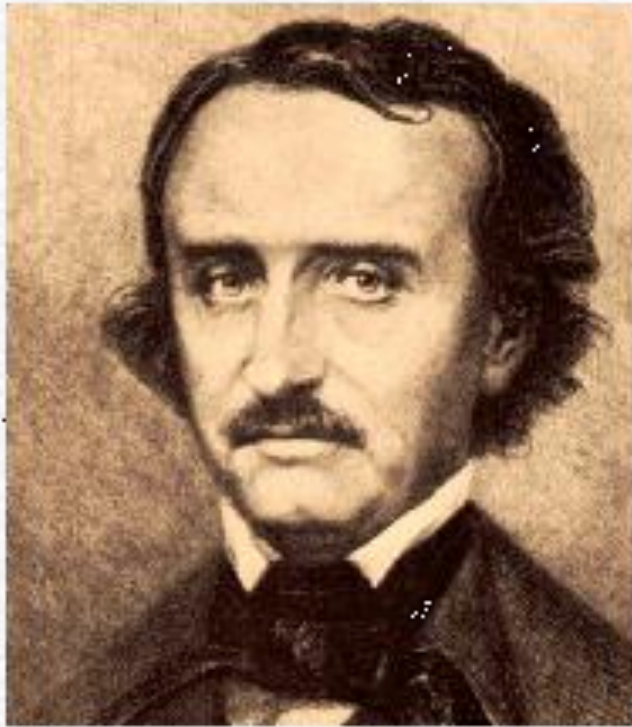
# Famous People from the Era

- ✓ Charles Darwin
- ✓ Albert Einstein
- ✓ Sigmund Freud
- ✓ Abraham Lincoln
- ✓ Mark Twain
- ✓ Alexander Graham Bell
- ✓ Henry Ford
- ✓ Booker T. Washington
- ✓ Karl Marx
- ✓ Jack the Ripper
- ✓ Walt Whitman
- ✓ Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ✓ Henry David Thoreau
- ✓ Edgar Allen Poe
- ✓ Emily Dickinson
- ✓ James Fenimore Cooper
- ✓ Cezanne, Manet, Van Gogh











# Famous Artists

- ✓ Paul Cezanne
  - ✓ Edouard Manet
  - ✓ Edgar Degas
  - ✓ Claude Monet
  - ✓ Vincent van Gogh
  - ✓ Edvard Munch
  - ✓ Georges Seurat
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# What does the term *Romantic* mean?




The Romantic movement in music coincides with a general Romantic movement in all arts.

At this period, the arts of literature and painting began to influence music.

In the Romantic era, music acquired poetic or philosophical meaning.

Antiquity, folklore, history and exotic cultures were examined as possible sources of inspiration.





# Characteristics of the Romantic Period

- ✓ Music is not as reliant on repetition as in Classical music
- ✓ The music often directly tells a story
- ✓ Exploration of tone colors
- ✓ Much bigger orchestras
- ✓ Popularity of chamber music
- ✓ Music is highly emotional
- ✓ Poetry and music are intimately fused




# Musical Innovations

- ✓ Invention of the **song cycle**
- ✓ Invention of the **symphonic poem**
- ✓ Great works written for solo piano
- ✓ Composers stretched the listeners ear by creating a great deal of dissonance using chromatic notes, and extensions of the triad.
- ✓ Composers began to drift away from the strong sense of tonality heard in Classical music.
- ✓ Founding of conservatories




# Composer

- ✓ Composers gradually left the patronage system and became free agents of their own works.
  - ✓ This meant that the composer, their music and their livelihood depended on the public's approval.
  - ✓ For the first time, a composer's work might not be publicly performed during his or her lifetime.
  - ✓ Romantics saw themselves as outsiders, isolated from mainstream society, struggling to express their creative ideas.
  - ✓ In general, composers held higher social status than in the Classical period.
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# Performer

- Rise of virtuosic performers
  - the public was captured by virtuosity and showmanship
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# Conductor

- Resulted from the orchestras growth in numbers and complexity
- Became necessary to have one person to lead and control the orchestra







# General Musical Characteristics

- Individuality
  - Expressive Aims and Subjects
  - Nationalism and Exoticism
  - Rise and Importance of Program Music
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# Musical Elements

## • Melody

- Age of lyricism – unending melody
- Melodies appealed to the emotions
- Phrases tended to be longer and irregular in length
- Themes were more complex and utilized chromaticism
- Advent of theme transformation (Berlioz, Wagner)



# Musical Elements

- Harmony
- Basically tonal
- By end of the 19th century chromaticism (movement by half steps) stretched tonality to the breaking point
- Chromaticism imbued greater dissonance and tension into the sound


# Musical Elements

- ✓ Rhythm
- ✓ Rhythmic effects were used for “color” – rubato
- ✓ Articulations in the instruments tended to be heavy and intense
- ✓ A new vocabulary of music terms arose that indicated how to achieve the composer’s desired sound – *cantabile*, *dolce*, *con amore*, *allegro agitato*. These designations produced a more emotional sound and response.





# Musical Elements

- ☞ Texture
  - ☞ Essentially homophonic
  - ☞ Tended to be thick, heavy and lush
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# Dynamics

- ✓ Gradual
- ✓ Much wider range – extremes of dynamic variation
- ✓ Used extensively throughout the compositions



# Timbre/Instrumentation

- This period saw a full exploration of the instrumental families.
- Instruments were used for both their individual and collective color potential.
- Instrumental timbre was used to convey mood and atmosphere.
- The orchestra became much larger – from 70 players to more than 100 (resulting in the necessity of a conductor).
- Instruments could play louder and carry farther.
- Instruments were capable of major changes in dynamics.

# Strings



- String sections increased in size and were given more difficult accompaniment parts (scales, arpeggios)



# Woodwinds

## Development of new instruments

- saxophone (baritone and tuba) were invented by Adolf Sax
- piccolo, bass clarinet and English horn were added.

## Important improvements in wind instruments

- “Boehm system” of fingering for flutes and clarinets achieved better facility and intonation for the performer and greater musical range



# Brass



- Addition of valves and improvement to valves on brass instruments allowed the playing of a full chromatic compass for the first time and to more easily play quick runs of notes
- Tubas and Trombones were added



# Percussion

- Expanded to include bass drum, snare drum, cymbals and other exotic percussion instruments (gong, castanets)





# Famous Romantic Composers

- ✓ Frederic Chopin
  - ✓ Franz Liszt
  - ✓ Hector Berlioz
  - ✓ Johannes Brahms
  - ✓ Modest Mussorgsky
  - ✓ Felix Mendelssohn
  - ✓ Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
  - ✓ Richard Wagner
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# Ludwig Von Beethoven



# Ludwig Von Beethoven

- ✓ Crucial figure in the transition from Classical to Romantic
- ✓ The Romantic period really began around 1815. Works from this period are characterized by their intellectual depth, their formal innovations, and their intense, highly-personal expression.



# Frederic Chopin

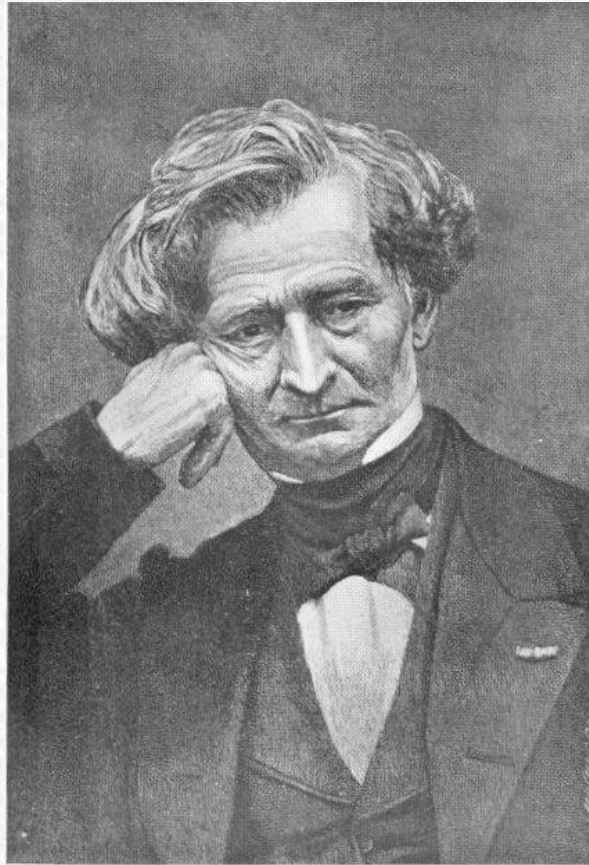


# Franz Liszt





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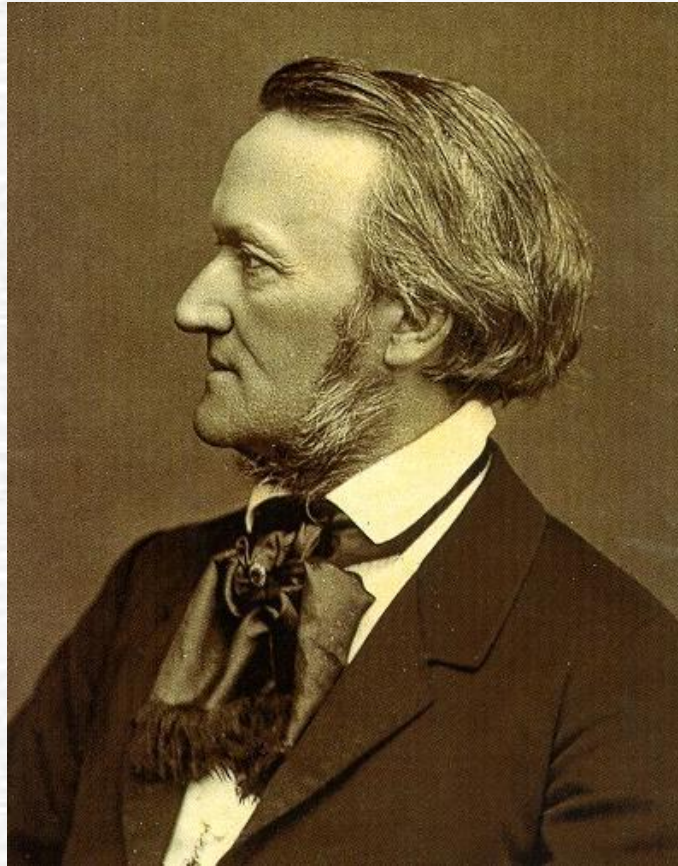
# Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky



# Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

- ✓ Russian composer
- ✓ Wrote 11 operas, 4 concertos, 6 symphonies, 3 ballets
- ✓ Most remembered for his ballets: *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*
- ✓ Music is intense: Melancholy & emotional
- ✓ It has been speculated that he committed suicide

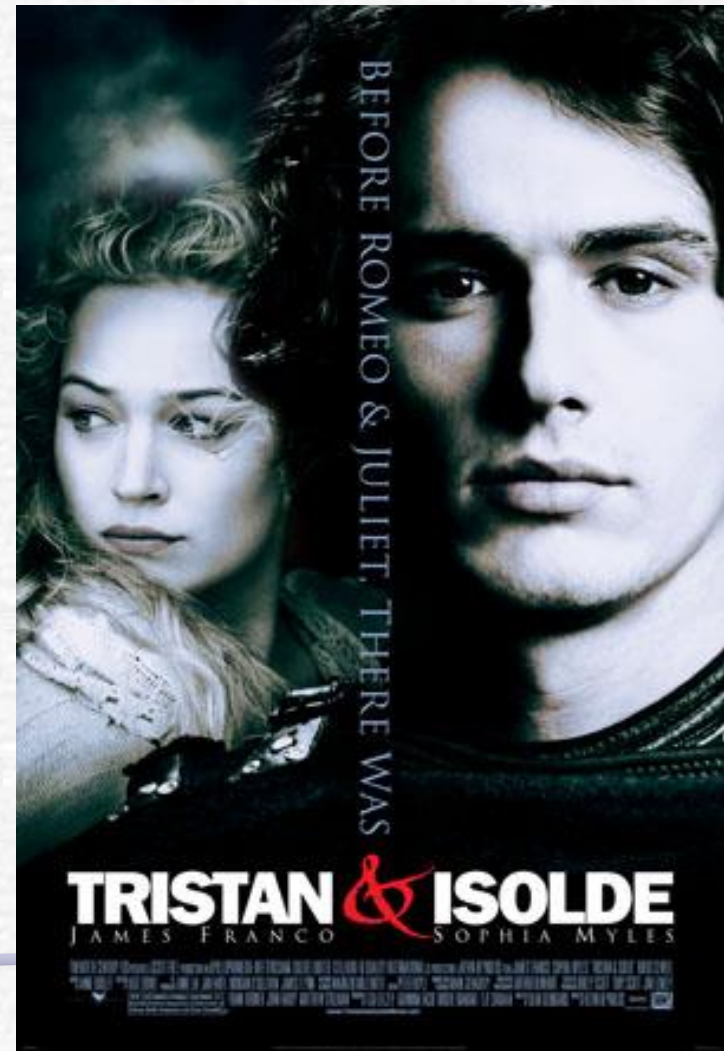
# Richard Wagner





# Richard Wagner

- Began composing at age 17
- 3 stages of opera creations: early, middle, and third
- His primary legacy was his creation of operas
- Wrote the opera *Tristan and Isolde*.
- *Tristan und Isolde* was one of his greatest operas



# *Tristan & Isolde*

- In the Wagnerian version the plot is briefly as follows: Tristan, having lost his parents in infancy, has been reared at the court of his uncle, Marke, King of Cornwall. He has slain in combat Morold, an Irish knight, who had come to Cornwall, to collect the tribute that country had been paying to Ireland. Morold was affianced to his cousin Isolde, daughter of the Irish king. Tristan, having been dangerously wounded in the combat, places himself, without disclosing his identity, under the care of Morold's affianced, Isolde who comes of a race skilled in magic arts.
- She discerns who he is; but, although she is aware that she is harbouring the slayer of her affianced, she spares him and carefully tends him, for she has conceived a deep passion for him. Tristan also becomes enamoured of her, but both deem their love unrequited. Soon after Tristan's return to Cornwall, he is dispatched to Ireland by Marke, that he may win Isolde as Queen for the Cornish king...

# Period Instruments

- ✓ Tuba
- ✓ Alto, Bass, Contrabass Clarinet
- ✓ Contrabassoon
- ✓ Euphonium
- ✓ Alto, Tenor, Baritone Saxophone
- ✓ Alto Flute







# Opera

- ✓ Very popular during the Romantic era.
  - ✓ Composers focused on melodies and themes.
  - ✓ Huge interest in songs written as part of a cycle: a complete story told with related songs.
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