

# Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Queensborough Community College

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Spring 2018

Sections H2 (T 2:10-5), H3 (W 2:10-5), L3 (W 5:10-8)



# Reading quiz

All music that includes a vocal part has words (text).

- a) True
- b) False

# Reading quiz

In the process of musical analysis, a musicologist takes into consideration the musical elements within a piece of music, aesthetics or ideology, and other pieces of music.

- a) True
- b) False

# Reading quiz

If you're hearing a piece that sounds bright, positive, or cheerful, you're most likely hearing a piece that is in...

- a) A major key
- b) A minor key
- c) No key

# Reading quiz

When you're listening to a piece of music that has words (a text), you only need to pay attention to the words in order to understand what the piece means.

- a) True
- b) False

# Reading quiz

What was the most interesting or surprising thing you learned from the reading(s) this week?

# Recap

- Optional midterm rewrites due November 19
- In-class units completed so far:
  - Music and dance
  - Music and religion
- This unit (through November 19): Music as Art

# Music as Art? A Romantic ideal

- Blame (Johann Sebastian) Bach
  - The example later composers look to for supreme craftsmanship
- Blame Beethoven
  - The example later composers look to for artistic duty and a sense of purpose
- Blame (Clara) Schumann
  - Seriousness of the concert experience

“Such incidents [of deafness] drove me almost to despair; a little more of that and I would have ended my life - it was only my art that held me back. Ah, it seemed to me impossible to leave the world until I had brought forth all that I felt was within me.”

—Beethoven, *Heiligenstadt Testament* (1802)



# 19<sup>th</sup>-century musical issues

- Crisis of continuation
  - 1830s: prevailing sense that an age of great artists had passed
  - How will the younger generation carry on?
- Historicism
  - Efforts to preserve and sustain the great musical traditions of the past: orchestral programming, university courses and textbooks, composer biographies
- Canonization
  - Standard repertoire with Beethoven at the center
  - New composers are judged against these immortal greats (if they are heard at all)

# The role of the arts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

- 1750-1850 – Industrial Revolution
- Industrialization and mechanization of trades (textiles, manufacturing, agriculture, transportation)
- Larger cities, impersonal factories
- End of the patronage system and decrease of influence of aristocracy
- Artists are free to produce whatever art they choose
- The free market determines if they are successful or not
- Art is the opposite of mechanization: it is an escape
- After a meaningful artistic encounter, we emerge feeling better and more profound because we have experienced such deep and true things.

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Hector Berlioz  
Georges Bizet  
Johannes Brahms  
Frederic Chopin  
Gustav Mahler  
Franz Schubert  
Giuseppe Verdi  
Richard Wagner

# 19<sup>th</sup> century (Romanticism) aesthetics

Common artistic topics:

- Nature
- Nostalgia
- The exotic
- The supernatural
- Folk life and ethnicity
- Deep personal contemplation
- Intense feelings
- The individual
- Unique, non-repeatable artistic experiences
- Art itself is valued over career and fame



Joseph Wright, *Outlet of Wyburn Lake* (1796)

Romantic authors: Emily Brontë (and sisters), Lord Byron, Alexandre Dumas, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Victor Hugo, John Keats, Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Shelley, Leo Tolstoy

# Attitudes about music

## 18<sup>th</sup> century (Classical)

In order for something to be called “art”, it must be “beautiful”

—Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, 1790

## 19<sup>th</sup> century (Romantic)

“Music is the most romantic of all the arts. Music unlocks for man an unfamiliar world having nothing in common with the external world that surrounds him.”

—ETA Hoffmann, review of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 (1810)

Music is a “holy mystery.”

—Wilhelm Wachenroder (1790s)

The music people make is a product of the way people think AND the way people think is a product of the music they listen to.

# Changing musical styles

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91), Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201, I. Allegro moderato (1774)



## Classical

- Music “should” be logical, pleasant, and refined – interesting but restrained
- Homophonic textures
  - Highest voices carry the melody (i.e. violins)
  - Soloists are featured (concertos, opera arias)
- Phrases and cadences are clear
- Emphasis on pretty melodies

Johannes Brahms (1833-97), Symphony No. 3 in F Major, Op. 90, I. Allegro (1883)



## Romantic

- Bigger (ensemble)
- Louder
- Extremes: dynamics, moods, ranges
- Beethoven treats the orchestra like a giant instrument
- Less clarity (texture, phrases, form)
- Seems more personal

“Romantic” does not mean “love” – it refers to the intense spiritual and emotional aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> century art (as compared to Classical)



# Franz Schubert (1797-1828), *Der Erlkönig* (1815)

- Text: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)
- Singer plays multiple roles in a dramatic plot
  - Narrator, son, father, devil
- Supernatural folktale
- What is the role of the piano?



Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (1925-2012), baritone  
Gerald Moore (1899-1987), piano

Moritz von Schwind (1804-71),  
*The Elfking* (c.1860)

# The middle class of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

- 15-20% of Western Europe
- Music making at home
- The piano became larger and more powerful because of the Industrial Revolution
  - The favorite instrument of people making music at home. It can play many melodies and accompaniments at the same time
  - A favorite instrument of virtuosos
  - Status symbol in the home



Achille Devéria (1800-57) – *In the Salon*

# *Bildung*

- *Bildung* – lifelong project of self-cultivation through literature, poetry, and art
  - Practiced by members of the middle class in Germany and Austria
- *Bildung* circle
- Schubertiad



Mortiz von Schwind (1804-71),  
*Schubertiade* (1868)



# Franz Schubert (1797-1828)



## Oeuvre

- 600 Lieder
- 9 symphonies
- Chamber music
  - 21 piano sonatas
  - 400 dances, waltzes, etc. for piano
  - 15 string quartets

## Lied (plural: Lieder)

- Song in German for voice and piano
- Lyrical or dramatic poetic text
- The composer draws out the meaning of every word through texture, form, harmony, and the piano accompaniment

*"I am in the world for the purpose of composing. What I feel in my heart, I give to the world." —Franz Schubert*

# New York City

What makes NYC special or unique?



# The arts in New York City

The artistic institutions that help define the city were shaped by wealthy 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century industry businessmen [remember Orwell and Baldwin?]:

- Metropolitan Museum of Art established in 1870 by a group of wealthy Americans to create a “national institution and gallery of art” to bring art and education to the American people
- Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), steel magnate – built Carnegie Hall in 1891
- Augustus D. Juilliard (1836-1919), textile merchant – gave money in his will that established The Juilliard School in 1905
- John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), John D. Rockefeller, III (1906-78)
  - Senior was the wealthiest American of all time; founded Standard Oil and established the Rockefeller Foundation in 1913
  - III: helped found and lead the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 1962 as part of an urban renewal project

# Support for the arts = access to the arts

Current national arts funding:

- National Endowment for the Arts was established in 1965 “to nurture American creativity, to elevate the nation’s culture, and to sustain and preserve the country’s many artistic traditions.”
  - Supports arts making in all 435 Congressional districts of the country so that all Americans have access to the arts and artists working outside of big cities are able to make art
  - Annual budget is \$152.8M (0.003% of the annual US budget, \$3.899T)
- National spending on the arts, per capita
  - US: \$0.47
  - Canada: \$5.19
  - Germany: \$19.81

# Supporting the arts in New York City

- New York City is unique in its support of the arts today – arts here are better funded and more accessible than in most US cities
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
  - Awarded \$43.9M to 1,000 NYC cultural groups and institutions in 2018-19 (annual budget: \$198.4M)
  - Music, dance, theater, murals, arts education in schools and community centers, affordable studio and rehearsal space for artists
- NYC Cultural Plan, 2016-17
  - Asked NYC residents what culture they had in their neighborhoods, what was lacking, what help they needed to help improve the social and economic welfare of their neighborhoods
  - Plan for prioritizing funding of arts organizations going forward

# Live music in New York City: Concert Response Essay

- Attend any classical music concert you like – there are hundreds (thousands?), and many are free
  - Calendar with concert dates, times, cost, and descriptions available online (Assignments—Concert Response Essay)
- Concert Response Essay due the last day of class

# Reminders

- This week's online discussion (Music and economics) ends Sunday
- Reading for next class is available online: Romantic era, Schubert
- Optional midterm rewrites are due November 19



# End quiz

1. *Bildung* was a common activity for members of the aristocracy or nobility in Austria and Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- a) True                      b) False

2. New York City is one of the US cities with the highest amount of public funding for the arts.

- a) True                      b) False

3. Name one way the Romantic period is different from the Classical period.