

2012-11-12

- Romantic Period (1820-1900) cultural movement of emotion, imagination, individualism and rebellion against the age expression; painters = brilliant colors and bold motion; Romantic Period started in poetry, then painting, then music where it was expressed most. Industrial Revolution created big social and economic changes. Artists and writers shovel the social realities of the times and working class and poor. Now concern for society as a whole. Science and Technology = railroad, steamship, communism, socialism and labor unions. Truth was "what one felt to be true." Wrong to deny one's feelings. Fascination with unknown, mystery, inner life, dreams, horror, drug-induced visions. Resented rules. Middle class prospered, lower class = slums and epidemics. Government and individuals tried to improve life = public housing, model cities, sanitation laws, mass education, beginning of welfare.
- Purpose of composition changed = Romantics "waited for inspiration" to compose. Composers now had to earn living by being virtuoso performers, teachers, conductors, critics. Middle class rose and public concerts grew. Orchestras = bigger; Harmony = more complex chords; tone color = portray variety of moods and atmosphere with rich sensuous harmonics; Dynamics = wider range; Pitch = more extreme high and low; Tempo = faster, slower, Rubato = hold back or push forward; Mass production of cheaper and technically better inst. Piano important. Orchestration = writing for a specific inst. to achieve a specific sound or mood. Terms = dolce = sweet,; cantabile = singing; dolente = weep, maestoso = majestic; agitato; misterious = slowed the state of mind of composer and innermost feelings "Individuality of Style" = can tell by sound who wrote it. Forms = short vocal and piano pieces; Large pieces = longer; individual movements = longer; Thematic transformation = same melody used in all movements
- Art song = very important form in Rom. Period for solo voice and piano = piano as important as voice. Rom. poetry helped develop this form Form = brief piano intro and postlude ; Strophic form = same music for each stanza; Modified Strophic = ABA; through composed = new music for each stanza. Song cycle = set of several songs unified by story or musical idea.
- Schubert (1797-1828) Austria; father a lower Viennese teacher; music at home; educated in school for Viennese court singers; never married no regular job got money teaching, publications and from friends; "Schubertiads"; heard one public concert of his music in lifetime; at 19 wrote 179 pieces; wrote 600 songs, symphonies, string quart.; piano sonatas, masses, opera. Composed during day - coffee houses and taverns nites; Syphilis at 25 - died 31.