

2012-11-14

- R. Schumann (1810-1856) German; father a book-seller and writer; studied at 6; father died; mother = study law = R.S. tried but didn't like; R.S. wanted career as piano virtuoso - at 20 tried; tried to strengthen fingers with mechanical device; crippled one finger, so had to give up; at 23 founded "New Music Journal" to promote music originality and be against "music trash" Met daughter of piano teacher (he 18 - she 9) - she was a piano prodigy. Her father not want them together - later engaged. R.S. failed at music positions, mental and physical health bad; married when Clara Wieck was 21. 8 children. Music "too personal;" Clara also a composer. R.S. = breakdowns, hallucinations, heard voices, lost memory, tried to drown self in Rhine River = to asylum - died 2 years later.
- Clara Schumann (1819-1896) German. Better pianist than R.S. composed music to play on her concerts - they didn't compose as much to not compete with R.S. Life difficult with 8 kids and R.S. = unstable. Brahms had been studying with R.S. and after death stayed and helped C.S.
- Chopin (1810-1849) Poland; father had private school for young men. C. had best teachers and life in high society; graduated from Warsaw Conservatory - (had French father). Toured Austria and Germany playing own comp. Russia took Poland; C. heart broken and went to Paris; was in high society, very popular, didn't like big concert halls; was frail and couldn't get loud sounds from piano, but could get romantic sounds; taught piano and sold compositions; composed only for piano; met Aurore Dudevant/George Sand. He 28 - She 34; C. composed his greatest works while together. Unkind things about C. in novel. He toured England and Scotland. Died 39 of TB - heart to Poland
- Nocturne = Night piece; Etude = to help specific technical difficulties; Polonaise = stately court dance - 3/4; rhythm in left hand.
- (Traumerei - Dreams)

Reading for Monday, November 20

Monday, November 26:

pages 286-288, 292-299, 302-303, 311-312, 327-329, 333-335.