

2012-11-19

- Schumann = Traumerei.
- Étude = Written to help specific technical difficulties
- Liszt (1811-1886) Hungary; learned from father on Esterházy estate (Haydn). Met Schubert and Beethoven in Vienna at 11 and gave first concert; went to Paris; greatest piano virtuoso ever heard; good looks, personality and affairs with married women dazzled Europe as much as his piano playing. When he heard violinist Paganini, stopped performing and practiced 12 hours a day for a few years. Concerts all over Europe, was generous and kind, gave money and musical help to composers, and taught talented pianists for free. Had long term relationships with two writers: George Sand (Aurore Dudevant) (Chopin) and Countess Marie D' Agoult = Daniel Stern (also wrote about L. in novels). L. never married; Princess Carolyne Sayn - Wittgenstein, wife of noble, to Weimar with L., L. conducted there, last years took minor religious orders and known as Abbe Liszt. died pneumonia?
- Mendelssohn (1809-1847) Germany; rich and famous family; grandfather a famous Jewish philosopher; father a banker, piano prodigy at 9; conducted own comp. at 15, with orch. family employed; founded Leipzig Conservatory, was also a fine painter, Later family converted to Lutheran. M. not like and changed back. Wrote in all forms - many considered M. music "too nice" = "no inner conflict or demons" in music. Performed in Germany and England. Played his own songs for Queen Victoria to sing. Conducted Bach's St. Matthew Passion at 20; created new interest in Bach. (sister Fanny (1805-1847) one of best women comp. Father not let her; composed for concerts at home; married a painter. Some comp. published under F.M. name. Died in rehearsal, F. 6 months later.
- Program music.
 - Program symphony = each movement has descriptive title.
 - Concert Overture = one movement comp. in program music.
 - Symphonic poem/tone poem = one long movement.
- Berlioz (1803-1869) France. Played no inst., taught self guitar. Father = M.D.; sent B. to Paris to med. school; went to Paris Conservatory. Earned money writing reviews, singing, giving lessons. Liked Shakespeare and influenced his music. Conducted, wrote book on orchestration. Harriet Smithson. Didn't like "soul-less Italian music." Money from operas in old age and retired. "Never have to write and excuse other comp. mediocrity, listen to music, or set foot in theater again." called "genius without talent," "composed the unthinkable in music." Larger, louder, orchestras - Longer pieces, Dissonance.