

2012-11-26

- Program music; Program symphony; symphonic poem; tone poem;
- Berlioz (1803-1869) - French. concert overture
- Nationalism: use of national folk music, dances, songs in operas, symphonies.
- Program music: based on national heroes, history, literature, legends, rivers; Political nationalism important all over Europe. Composers used it to write music to make local music independent of European traditions; comp. broke rules of form and harmony to develop national styles. Nationalism united citizens, inspired loyalty to country; and helped soldiers serving in wars. It strengthened history, language, culture, patriotism and romanticism. National languages now used in business, school, literature (rather than country governing). Music markings in own languages.
- Smetana (1824-1884) Czech (Bohemia) taught self Czech; under Austrian control; opened Prague Conservatory; Father a brewmaster and violinist. National music not a success - S. want to Sweden = more creative freedom; unhappy life = not 1st wife and 3 of 4 daughters died within 2 years; deaf in 50s - still wrote music. Made money on opera and Bartered Bride; back to Prague = now more music freedom. Syphilis 10 years = insane.
- Verdi (1813-1901) Italy; son of storekeeper; studied in nearby town; (Antonio Barezzi) and sent to study in Milan = La Scala Opera House - (Center of Italian music.) - Returned home and married Barezzi's daughter (love of his life). 1st opera a so-so success; contract to wrote 3 more; wife and 2 babies died within 2 years; next opera a failure - wanted to quit but didn't. Supported Italian liberation. Nabucco and liberation (hymn): Married a singer; V. had lots of money - retired to country estate; raised livestock and hunted; tough businessman - wrote Requiem at 73 - Otello and Falstaff - 79 - 300,000 people in procession to his grave - Schools closed - special session of parliament to honor V. Operas larger than life.

Read for Wednesday and next Monday = 20 Century
pages 357-379, 383-388, 392-399, 418-420