

2012-11-28

- Verdi - Rigoletto.
- Puccini (1858-1924) Italy; family of organists and composers; to Milan Conservatory; had little money; after first opera, a publisher hired P. to write more and guaranteed him money. Became wealthy with success of La Boheme. (Tosca and Madame Butterfly also big.) Was strict with librettists (like Verdi). Stories were "real life." Melodies = emotional and beautiful; vocal ability very important. Used exoticism = writing in style of other lands. Used same melodies in several acts to give unity.
- 20th Century = more changes in music than since beginning of Baroque. New approaches to pitch, rhythm, chords, sounds, percussion, forms, playing inst. and singing. New way of writing music on paper. This variety reflects the diversity of 20c. life and people, and changing technology, industry, mass production. Asian and African countries greatly influenced American music and art. Jazz = a big influence. Is considered American "nationalism". Characteristics of 20c music: Tone color = more important, extreme ranges in inst. and voices; all kinds of "non-music" percussion sounds; Glissando = fast slide up or down scale; "noisemakers" = sirens, typewriters, throw rocks, pebbles, crush paper and glass, water, piano strings altered; harmony = triad abandoned, use other intervals = Fourth chord = a fourth apart. Polychord = 2 chords together; Tone cluster = notes 1/2 and whole step apart; major and minor not always used; Bitonality = 2 keys at once; Polytonality = more than 2 together; Atonality = absence of key.
- 12 tone system = all notes equally important.
- Rhythm = irregular and unpredictable; complex and syncopated; rapid changes. Polyrhythms = 2 or more rhythms at once. Melody = wide pitch intervals and irregular rhythms. Sprechstimme = half sing/speak; (notated by special notes)
- Influences in music and art = movies, radio, TV, recordings, Radio stations had own symphony orch. and live performances, also of operas and big bands. (Most music played was from earlier periods of composition.)