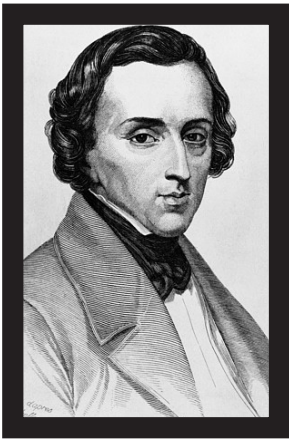


QUAVER REPORT

Great Composers of the Romantic Period



Frédéric François Chopin

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born March 1, 1810 near Warsaw, Poland and died October 17, 1849 in Paris at 39 years old.
- Chopin is considered one of the great masters of Romantic music.
- The great majority of Chopin's compositions were written for the piano as solo instrument; only a few require accompanying orchestra.

FUN FACTS

- Chopin himself never gave titles to his instrumental works, but identified them simply by number.
- When he was eleven years old, Chopin performed in the presence of Alexander I, Tsar of Russia. In Russia, a tsar is a kind of king.
- Chopin invented musical forms such as the instrumental **ballade**.

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Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

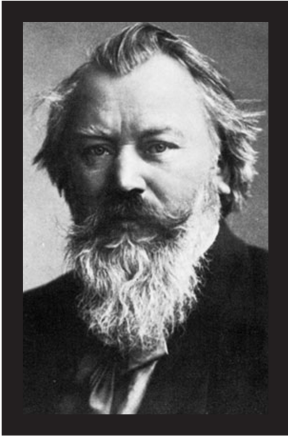
- Born in May 7, 1840, near Volga, Russia, and died suddenly on November 6, 1893 at 53 – nine days after the premiere of his *Sixth Symphony*, the *Pathétique*.
- One of Tchaikovsky's most popular pieces was *Swan Lake*, written for a ballet.
- His music has beautiful singable melodies and lush chords.
- He paints pictures in music with such pieces as *The Nutcracker Suite* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

FUN FACTS

- *Swan Lake* was the first ballet set to the score of a symphonic composer.
- In his *1812 Overture*, the score actually calls for real cannons to be shot!
- After Tchaikovsky was married, he immediately made arrangements to never see his wife again!
- No one is quite sure whether his death was by accident or by poison. It remains a mystery.



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Johannes Brahms

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born May 7, 1833 in Germany and died April 3, 1897.
- Brahms was a virtuoso pianist and wrote hundreds of pieces for all kinds of combinations of instruments.
- One of his most popular works is his Violin Concerto written for his great friend, Johannes Joachim.
- Brahms was a huge fan of Beethoven.

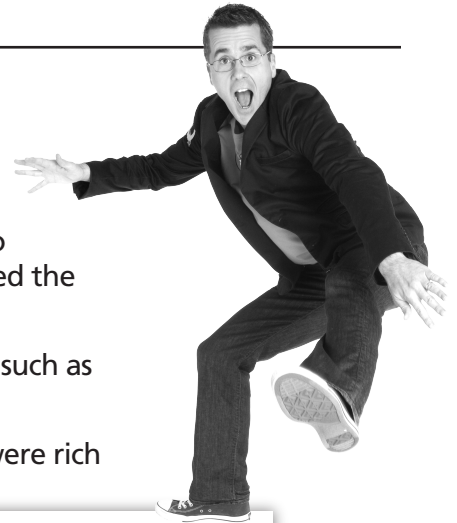
FUN FACTS

- Brahms was a perfectionist and threw away a lot of his music as he didn't consider it perfect enough.
- Brahms took 23 years to complete his first symphony. When it was completed, Beethoven dubbed it his 10th Symphony. Brahms loved walking, and spent the Spring in Italy and found somewhere lovely in Europe to spend the Summer.

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More about the Romantic Period...

- Romantic period music was much more dramatic; composers began to express their feelings and emotions through music. This is why it was called the ROMANTIC period.
- Composers began writing program music, music that depicted a story, such as Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bald Mountain*.
- Romantic composers were considered superstars of their time; many were rich and famous and travelled all over Europe.



Other Famous Composers...

- Richard Wagner (1813 - 1833)
- Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 - 1943)
- Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)
- Hector Berlioz (1803 - 1869)