

Composer of the Month

Name:
Nationality:
Date Born:_____ Date Died:_____
Most Famous Music:

Famous Musicians

- **Ludwig van Beethoven**
- **Johann Sebastian Bach**
- **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
- **Antonio Lucio Vivaldi**
- **Edvard Hagerup Grieg**
- **Franz Schubert**

- **Felix Mendelssohn**
- **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**
- **Frederic Chopin**
- **Franz Joseph Haydn**
- **George Frideric Handel**
- **Johannes Brahms**
- **Wilhelm Richard Wagner**
- **Ralph Vaughan Williams**
- **Sir Edward William Elgar**
- **Jean Sibelius**
- **Joseph-Maurice Ravel**
- **Hector Berlioz**



Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven

German: 17 December 1770^[1] – 26 March 1827) was a [German composer](#) and [pianist](#). He was a crucial figure in the transitional period between the [Classical](#) and [Romantic](#) eras in [Western classical music](#), and remains one of the most acclaimed and influential composers of all time. Born in [Bonn](#), of the [Electorate of Cologne](#) and a part of the [Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation](#) in present-day Germany, he moved to [Vienna](#) in his early twenties and settled there, studying with [Joseph Haydn](#) and quickly gaining a reputation as a [virtuoso](#) pianist. His hearing began to [deteriorate](#) in the late 1790s, yet he continued to compose, [conduct](#), and perform, even after becoming [completely deaf](#).
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beethoven>



Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach

31 March 1685 – 28 July 1750 was a German composer, organist, violist, and violinist whose ecclesiastical and secular works for choir, orchestra, and solo instruments drew together the strands of the [Baroque](#) period and brought it to its ultimate maturity. Bach's works include the [Brandenburg concertos](#), the [Goldberg Variations](#), the [Partitas](#), the [Well-Tempered Clavier](#), the [Mass in B Minor](#), the [St. Matthew Passion](#), the [St. John Passion](#), the [Magnificat](#), [The Musical Offering](#), [The Art of Fugue](#), the [English](#) and [French Suites](#), the [Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin](#), the [Cello Suites](#), more than 200 surviving [cantatas](#), and a similar number of [organ](#) works, including the celebrated [Tocatta and Fugue in D minor](#) and [Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor](#). Bach's abilities as an organist were highly respected throughout Europe during his lifetime. He is now regarded as the supreme composer of the Baroque, and as one of the greatest of all time. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bach>



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

27 January 1756 – 5 December 1791 was a prolific and influential [composer](#) of the [Classical era](#). He composed over 600 [works](#), many acknowledged as pinnacles of [symphonic](#), [concertante](#), [chamber](#), [piano](#), [operatic](#), and [choral music](#). He is among the most enduringly popular of [classical](#) composers.

Mozart showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood in [Salzburg](#). Already competent on [keyboard](#) and [violin](#), he composed from the age of five and performed before European royalty. While visiting [Vienna](#) in 1781, he was dismissed from his Salzburg position. He chose to stay in the capital, where he achieved fame but little financial security. During his final years in Vienna, he composed many of his best-known symphonies, concertos, and operas, and the [Requiem](#). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart>

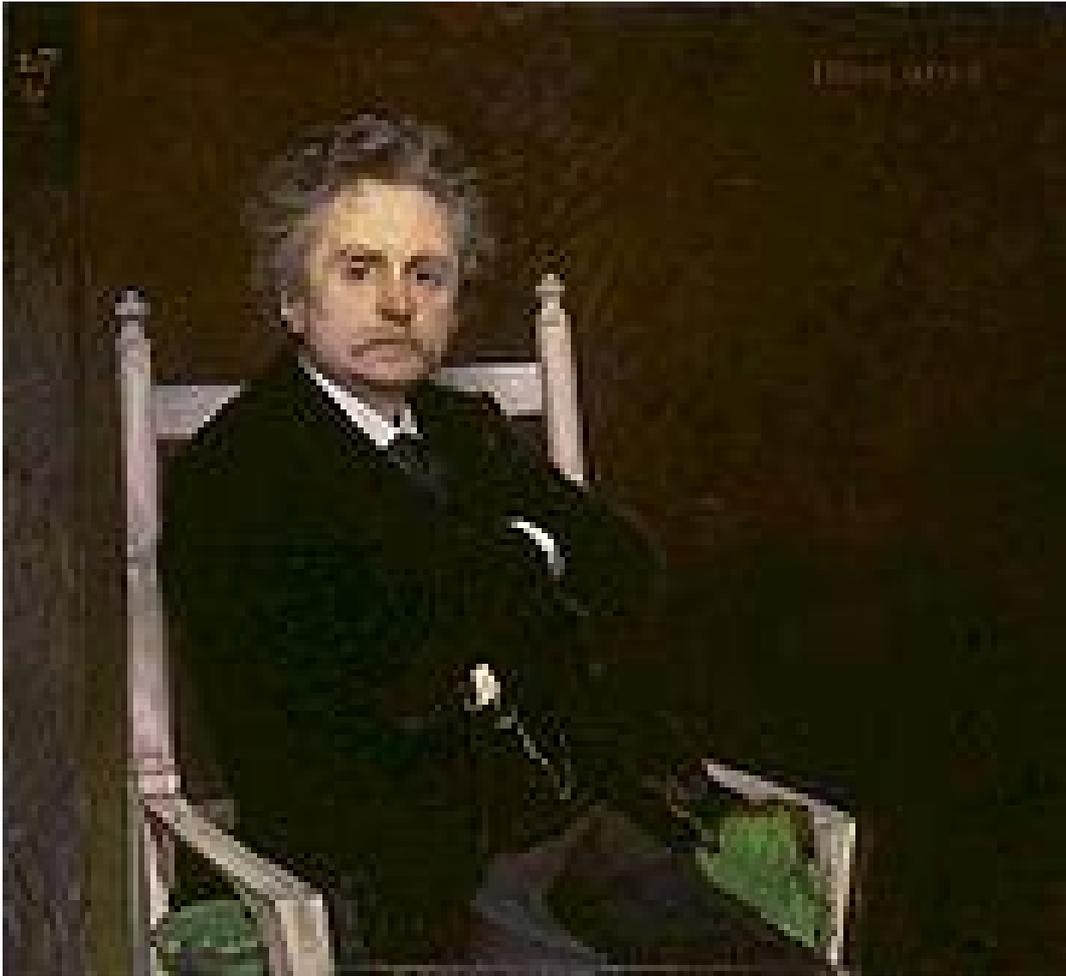


Antonio Lucio Vivaldi

Antonio Lucio Vivaldi

(March 4, 1678 – July 28, 1741),^[1] nicknamed *il Prete Rosso* ("The Red Priest"), was a [baroque](#) composer and [Venetian priest](#), as well as a famous virtuoso violinist, born and raised in the [Republic of Venice](#). [The Four Seasons](#), a series of four [violin concerti](#), is his best-known work and a highly popular [baroque](#) piece.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivaldi>



Edvard Hagerup Grieg

Edvard Hagerup Grieg

(15 June 1843 – 4 September 1907) was a Norwegian composer and pianist who composed in the Romantic period.

He is best known for his Piano Concerto in A minor, for his incidental music to Henrik Ibsen's play *Peer Gynt* (which includes *Morning Mood* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*), and for his collection of piano miniatures *Lyric Pieces*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edvard_Grieg



Franz Schubert

Franz Schubert

January 31, 1797 – November 19, 1828) was an [Austrian composer](#).

Although he died at an early age, Schubert was tremendously prolific. He wrote some 600 [Lieder](#), nine [symphonies](#) (including the famous "[Unfinished Symphony](#)"), [liturgical](#) music, [operas](#), some [incidental music](#), and a large body of [chamber](#) and solo [piano](#) music. Appreciation of his music during his lifetime was limited, but interest in Schubert's work increased dramatically in the decades following his death at the age of 31. [Franz Liszt](#), [Robert Schumann](#), [Johannes Brahms](#) and [Felix Mendelssohn](#), among others, discovered and championed his works in the 19th Century. Today, Schubert is admired as one of the leading exponents of the early [Romantic](#) era in music and he remains one of the most frequently performed composers.



Felix Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn

3 February 1809 – 4 November 1847, a [German composer](#), [pianist](#), [organist](#) and [conductor](#) of the early [Romantic](#) period. He was recognized early as a musical prodigy, but his parents were cautious and did not seek to capitalise on his abilities. Early success in Germany, where he also revived interest in the music of [Johann Sebastian Bach](#), was followed by travel throughout Europe. Mendelssohn was particularly well-received in [Britain](#) as a composer, conductor and soloist. Mendelssohn's work includes [symphonies](#), [concerti](#), [oratorios](#), [piano music](#) and [chamber music](#). His most-performed works include his Overture and incidental music for [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), the [Italian Symphony](#), the [Scottish Symphony](#), the [Hebrides Overture](#), his [Violin Concerto](#), and his [String Octet](#). After a long period of relative denigration due to changing musical tastes and [anti-Semitism](#) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, his creative originality has now been recognized and re-evaluated. He is now among the most popular composers of the [Romantic era](#)



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

May 7, 1840 – November 6, 1893 was a Russian [composer](#) of the [Romantic](#) era. In 1862 entered the [St Petersburg Conservatory](#), graduating in 1865. Tchaikovsky wrote [symphony](#), opera, ballet, [instrumental](#), [chamber](#) and song. He wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in he ballets [Swan Lake](#), [The Sleeping Beauty](#) and [The Nutcracker](#), the [1812 Overture](#), his [First Piano Concerto](#), his last three numbered [symphonies](#), and the opera [Eugene Onegin](#). Although he enjoyed many popular successes, he was never emotionally secure, and his life was punctuated by personal crises and periods of depression. Tchaikovsky's public reputation grew; he was honored by the Tsar, awarded a lifetime pension and lauded in the concert halls of the world.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tchaikovsky>



Frederic Chopin

Frederic Chopin

Frédéric François Chopin (22 February 1810 – 17 October 1849) was a [Polish](#) composer and [virtuoso](#) pianist. He is considered one of the great masters of [Romantic music](#) and has been called "the poet of the piano". He was a renowned [child-prodigy](#) pianist and composer, he grew up in [Warsaw](#) and completed his musical education there. Following the Russian suppression of the [Polish November 1830 Uprising](#), he settled in Paris. He supported himself as a composer and piano teacher, giving few public performances. For most of his life, Chopin suffered from poor health; he died in Paris in 1849 at the age of 39. The vast majority of Chopin's [works](#) are for solo piano, though he also wrote two [piano concertos](#), a few [chamber pieces](#) and some [songs](#). His piano writing is often technically demanding, with an emphasis on nuance and expressive depth. Chopin invented the [instrumental ballade](#) and made major innovations to the [piano sonata](#), [mazurka](#), [waltz](#), [nocturne](#), [polonaise](#), [étude](#), [impromptu](#), [scherzo](#) and [prélude](#). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chopin>



(Franz) Joseph Haydn

(Franz) Joseph Haydn

March 31, 1732 – May 31, 1809 was an [Austrian](#) composer. He was one of the most important, prolific and prominent [composers](#) of the [classical period](#). He is often called the "Father of the [Symphony](#)" and "Father of the [String Quartet](#)" because of his important contributions to these genres. He was also instrumental in the development of the [piano trio](#) and in the evolution of [sonata form](#).^{[3][4]} A life-long resident of Austria, Haydn spent much of his career as a court musician for the wealthy [Hungarian](#) aristocratic [Esterházy](#) family on their remote estate.

Joseph Haydn was the brother of [Michael Haydn](#), himself a highly regarded composer, and [Johann Evangelist Haydn](#), a [tenor](#). He was also a close friend of [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#) and a teacher of [Ludwig van Beethoven](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haydn>



George Frideric Handel

George Frideric Handel

23 February 1685 – 14 April 1759 was a German-English [Baroque](#) composer, who is famous for his [operas](#), [oratorios](#), and [concerti grossi](#). He was born in Germany, trained in Italy, and spent most of his life in England. Born in [Halle](#) in the [Duchy of Magdeburg](#), he settled in England in 1712, becoming a naturalised subject of the British crown on 20 February 1727.^[u] His works include [Messiah](#), [Water Music](#), and [Music for the Royal Fireworks](#). Strongly influenced by the techniques of the great composers of the Italian Baroque era, as well as the English composer [Henry Purcell](#), Handel's music became well-known to many composers, including [Haydn](#), [Mozart](#), and [Beethoven](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handel>

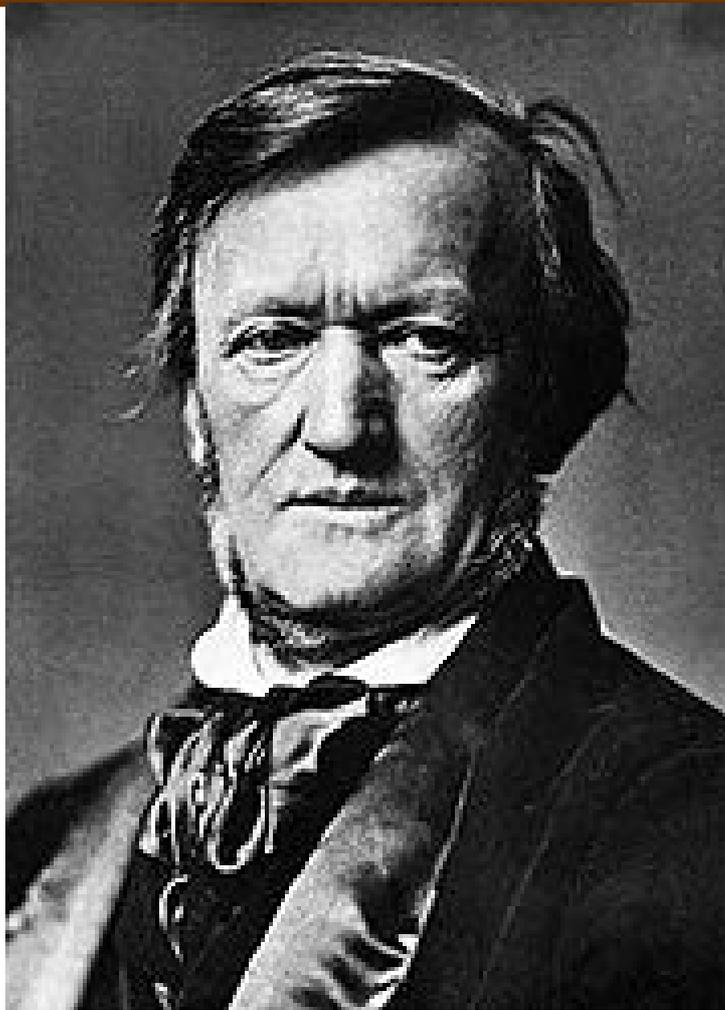


Johannes Brahms

Johannes Brahms

Johannes Brahms (7 May 1833 – 3 April 1897) was a German composer and pianist, and one of the leading musicians of the [Romantic period](#). Brahms lived in Vienna, Austria, where he was a leader of the musical scene. He was popular and he is sometimes grouped with [Johann Sebastian Bach](#) and [Ludwig van Beethoven](#) as one of the [Three Bs](#). Brahms composed for piano, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestra, and for voice and chorus. A virtuoso pianist, he premiered many of his own works. His music is linked to the Baroque and Classical masters. Brahms, was a perfectionist, and destroyed many of his works and left some of them unpublished.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahms>



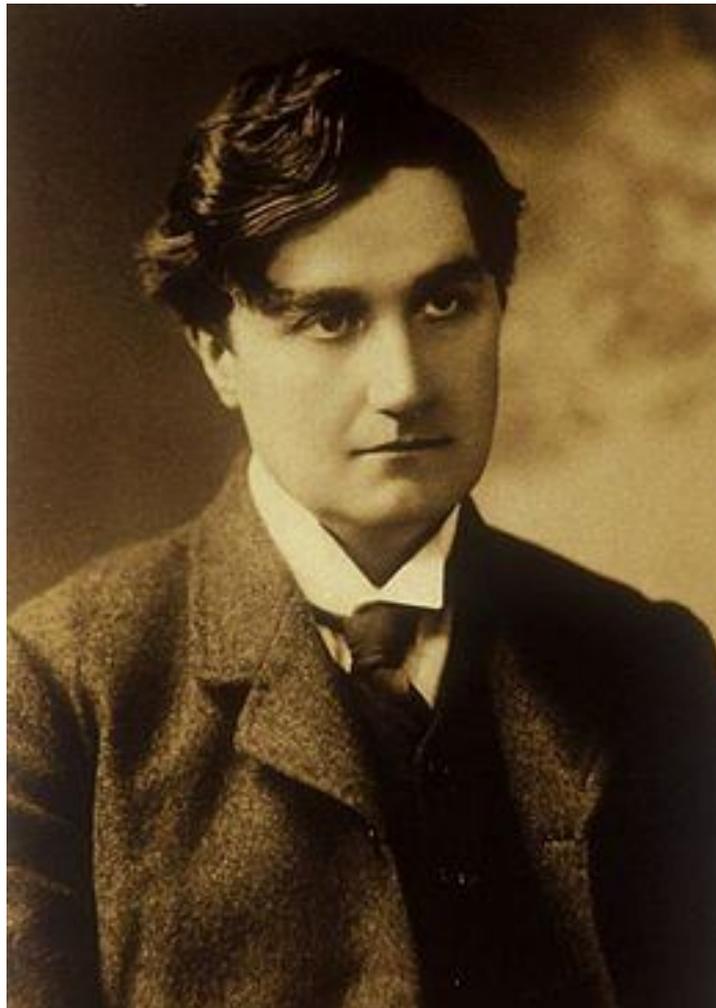
Wilhelm Richard Wagner

Wilhelm Richard Wagner

22 May 1813 – 13 February 1883) was a German [composer](#), [conductor](#), [theatre director](#) and [essayist](#), primarily known for his [operas](#) (or "music dramas", as they were later called). Unlike most other opera composers, Wagner wrote both the music and [libretto](#) for every one of his works.

Wagner's compositions, particularly those of his later period, are notable for [contrapuntal texture](#), rich [chromaticism](#), [harmonies](#) and [orchestration](#), and elaborate use of [leitmotifs](#): musical themes associated with particular characters, locales or plot elements. Wagner pioneered advances in musical language, such as extreme chromaticism and quickly shifting tonal centres, which greatly influenced the development of [European classical music](#).

Wagner built his own opera house, the [Bayreuth Festspielhaus](#).<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wagner>



Ralph Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams

12 October 1872 – 26 August 1958 was an English [composer](#) of [symphonies](#), [chamber music](#), [opera](#), [choral music](#), and [film scores](#). He was also a collector of English [folk music](#) and [song](#); this also influenced his editorial approach to the [English Hymnal](#), which began in 1904, many folk song arrangements being set as hymn tunes, in addition to several original compositions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Vaughn_Williams



Edward William Elgar

Sir Edward William Elgar, 1st Baronet

2 June 1857–23 February 1934 was an [English composer](#).

He is known for such works as the [Enigma Variations](#), the [Pomp and Circumstance Marches](#), [The Dream of Gerontius](#), concertos for [violin](#) and [cello](#), and two [symphonies](#). He also composed [oratorios](#), [chamber music](#) and songs. He was appointed [Master of the King's Musick](#) in 1924.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Elgar



Jean Sibelius

Jean Sibelius

8 December 1865 – 20 September 1957 was a [Finnish composer](#) of the later [Romantic period](#) whose music played an important role in the formation of the Finnish [national identity](#). The core of Sibelius's oeuvre is his set of seven [symphonies](#). Sibelius's best-known compositions include [Finlandia](#), [Valse Triste](#), the [violin concerto](#), the [Karelia Suite](#) and [The Swan of Tuonela](#) (one of the four movements of the [Lemminkäinen Suite](#)). Other works include pieces inspired by the [Kalevala](#), over 100 [songs](#) for voice and [piano](#), [incidental music](#) for 13 plays, the opera [Jungfrun i tornet](#) (*The Maiden in the Tower*), [chamber music](#), [piano music](#), 21 separate publications of [choral music](#), and [Masonic](#) ritual music. Sibelius composed prolifically until the mid-1920s. However, soon after completing his [Seventh Symphony](#) (1924), the [incidental music to *The Tempest*](#) (1926), and the [tone poem *Tapiola*](#) (1926), he produced no large scale works for the remaining thirty years of his life.. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sibelius>



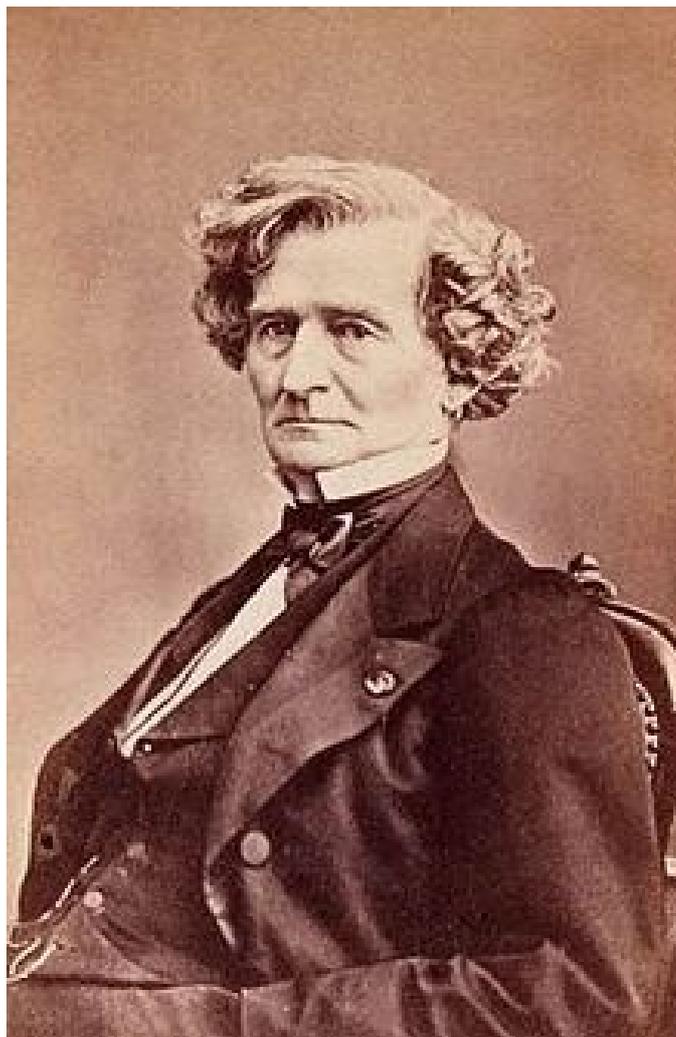
Joseph-Maurice Ravel

Joseph-Maurice Ravel

March 7, 1875 – December 28, 1937 was a French [composer](#) of [Impressionist music](#) known especially for his [melodies](#), [orchestral](#) and instrumental [textures](#) and effects. Much of his [piano music](#), [chamber music](#), [vocal music](#) and [orchestral music](#) has entered the standard concert repertoire.

Ravel's piano compositions, such as [Jeux d'eau](#), [Miroirs](#) and [Gaspard de la Nuit](#), demand considerable [virtuosity](#) from the [performer](#), and his [orchestral music](#), including [Daphnis et Chloé](#) and his arrangement of [Modest Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition](#), uses a variety of sound and [instrumentation](#) very effectively. Ravel is perhaps known best for his [orchestral](#) work, [Boléro](#) (1928)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravel>



Hector Berlioz

Hector Berlioz

(December 11, 1803 – March 8, 1869) was a French [Romantic composer](#), best known for his compositions [Symphonie fantastique](#) and [Grande messe des morts](#) (Requiem). Berlioz made significant contributions to the modern [orchestra](#) with his [Treatise on Instrumentation](#). He specified huge orchestral forces for some of his works; as a conductor, he performed several concerts with more than 1,000 musicians.^[2] He also composed around 50 songs.