

CLASSICAL AND ROMANTIC MUSIC

Professor Seamus McNerney

Humanities 324

Beethoven—Bagatelle in C

The Symphony—

How do you get 90 + people together to make such great music?

- 1). Development of the symphony ca. 1750-1800
- 2). The symphony as emblematic of enlightenment principles

Herbet von Karajan/Berlin Symphony Orchestra 1966—in rehearsal of Beethoven's Fifth
Herbet von Karajan/Berlin Symphony Orchestra 1966—The Fifth, 1st Movement

The Opera—

Add a few voices to a symphony, and...

- 1). The opera as musical literature
- 2). The apotheosis of the human voice

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
Aida—Leontyne Price

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
La Boheme—ACT I, Final Scene
Reante Tibaldi

Stefan Heller—Prelude in D

"As musical works of any substantial length are nothing other than speeches by which one seeks to move the listener to a certain empathy and to certain emotions, the rules for ordering and arrangement of the ideas are the same...A musical work in which this ordering is so arranged that all thoughts mutually support [each] other is well-ordered." J N Forkel, from The Wordless Rhetoric of Music, 1778

"The Empfindsamskeit (sensitivity, refined passion/melancholy) of music must reflect the times. It cannot be denied that the melodic language of the emotions has gained extraordinarily thereby...But what has corrupted good taste has... come out of Italy and France, particularly the dominance of melodies that say nothing to our sensibility and merely tickle the ear." JP Kirnberger, ca. 1767

"To compose music after Beethoven: therein lies the challenge. To be sure, one cannot write a symphony in good conscience after Beethoven. The challenge placed before us is to become musicians after Beethoven, for he finished music as we know it." (Arnold Schoenberg, 1904)

"Beethoven and the Germans...Ah yes, it is true that they placed an insurmountable obstacle before us--to be **original**. On the other hand, they may have mistaken a sunset for a sunrise."
(Claude Debussy, 1892)

**A small and incomplete but strongly suggested list of Classical/Romantic recordings
You cannot go wrong with these recommendations!**

Haydn: Symphonies--conductor Gardiner

Mozart: Symphonies--Wolff

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite--Jarvi

Beethoven: The Symphonies (1-9)--conductors: Bohm or Furtwangler or Gardiner

Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique--conductors: Davis or Beecham

Brahms: Symphonies--conductor: Walter

Wagner: Choral music--conductors: von Karajan or Kempe

Bruckner: Symphonies--conductors: Klemperer or von Karajan

Nielsen: Symphonies--conductor: Blomstedt

Sibelius: "Kullervo"--conductor: Berglund, "Karelia Suite" cond: Aho

PIANO MUSIC:_____

Beethoven: Performers: Claudio Arrau, Emil Gilels, Solomon Cutner

Chopin: Performers: V. Ashkenazy, A. Rubinstein, Dinu Lipatti

Liszt: Performers: Claudio Arrau, Leslie Howard