Romanticism And
19th Century
Orchestral Music

1810-1910
Traits of Romanticism

- Individualism
- Emotionalism
- Subjectivity
- Ancient, supernatural, weird, mystic, nationalism
Historical Factors

- Progress in science and mechanics
- Industrial Revolution
- Improvements in Musical Instruments
Instrumental Improvements

- Piano-cast iron frame
- Woodwinds-Theobald Boehm’s system
- Valves in brass instruments
General Musical Aspects

- Emotional expression, personal feeling, sentimentality
- Program Music (vs. Absolute Music)
- Virtuosity
Specific Musical Characteristics

- Melody-warmth of feeling, less regular phrases
- New chords and chord progressions
- Greater chromaticism
- More altered chords, as well as 7th and 9th chords
- Freer non-chord tones
- Modulation
Romantic Forms

- Small: single movement forms, especially for piano (etude, nocturne, etc.) and voice (Lieder)
- Orchestra: Tone poem, program symphony, concert overture
- Music Drama—Wagner, revolutionizes opera
- Less emphasis on structure than Classic Era
Orchestration

Developments in instruments leads to greater use of woodwinds and brass, and consequently larger orchestras.
Orchestral Music

- Schubert
- Berlioz
  - Symphonie Fantastic (program symphony)
  - Idee fixe
- Liszt, tone poems
- Brahms, conservative forms, sometimes contrapuntal
- Dvorak