

The Romantic Era

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* turn of the 18th Century → AFTER Classical period.

* depends on strong emotional expression
- fantasy and imagination > classical features
such as balance, symmetry & wholeness.
→ expressive content.

* richness of harmony

* richness in tone color.

* dramatic structure.

* fill out classical form patterns w/ "amazing, attractive," and "laden w/ emotion"
→ vary as spirit moved.

* opera plots from medieval history/legend.

→ Waverley novels by Sir Walter Scott, 1771-1832

→ recapturing the feeling of high romance.

→ mysticism, demons, supernatural.

nightmarish side of human experience.
→ i.e. Schubert: "The Erlking" boy's soul
snatched away by evil spirit in
forest.

→ Berlioz: "Witches Sabbath" from
"Symphonie Fantastique".

* use to escape unpleasant realities of life.

→ i.e. nature improved by Man from crude
and imperfect original.

→ 19th century = nature as a mysterious force.

→ man shrank to insignificance.

→ solitary man standing in awe/fascination
at wild scene of mist, rocks, waves, trees, etc.

→ i.e. Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony"

→ i.e. Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique"