Part V

Romantic Period

Prelude
Romantic Period

• 19th century is know as the Romantic Period

• exact dates of romanticism vary
  - 1820-1900 often given in music history
  - 1827-1900 (1827 is death of Beethoven)
  - 1800-1900

• the change of style is gradual

• romantic traits stretch back into the late 1700s (recall Sturm und Drang)
Progress and Dislocation

- Industrial Revolution accelerates rapidly in the 19th century
- Railroad’s impact on travel time
  - NYC to Boston (200 miles) took 1.5 days in a coach; took 6 hours by train
  - Read description of going 20 MPH (see p. 362)
- Steamship’s impact on long-distance commerce
  - Price to transport one tonne from Australia to England in 1830 was $800; by steamship the price was $7.50
Progress and Dislocation

• telegraph’s impact on speed of communication
  - before transmission time no faster than the carrier
  - first transatlantic cable 1866
• telephone invented in 1876
• phonograph invented in 1877
Progress and Dislocation

• Science and Technology
  - increased crop yields
  - development of smallpox vaccine
  - Pasteur shows microorganisms cause disease
  - sterilization of surgical instruments routine
  - X-rays
  - sewage systems develop in U.S. and European cites
Progress and Dislocation

- people believed in the inevitability of progress
- each year would bring new improvements to lives
- Europe’s population sees a dramatic increase (see graph p. 363)
- many people relocate from farms to cities in search of work
Romanticism

• the term has many meanings

• is shorthand for the new aesthetic and philosophy of the 19th century
Romanticism
ideas and ideologies

• romanticism finds value in: (see pp. 364-365)
  - reason, but, reason cannot solve all problems
  - values individual & subjective over universal
  - emotional & spiritual over rational
  - revered nature
  - glorified creative genius
  - favored instrumental music

• Nationalism

• Political liberalism
  - favoring constitutional government and *laissez-faire* economics
Romanticism

ideas and ideologies

- Karl Marx (1818-1883) advocates radical social reform and elimination of capitalism
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882) described a theory of evolution by natural selection
- Social Darwinism
  - extension of Darwin’s ideas into the sphere of human progress
  - Herbert Spencer coins the phrase “survival of the fittest,” and idea used to justify social inequality and against state assistance to the needy (Bonds p. 366).
reaction, reform, and revolution

- Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)
  - after French Revolution, takes control of French army and government
  - crowns himself emperor (1804)
  - conquers most of Europe
  - his defeats begin in Moscow in 1812 and is finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815
reaction, reform, and revolution

• Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)
  - many monarchs are restored to thrones

• Revolutions of 1848-1849
  - begin in France but spread to Prussia, Saxony, Bohemia, Austria, etc...
  - Wagner actually takes part in fighting in Dresden against the regime that employed him. He flees to Switzerland.
reaction, reform, and revolution

- additional resources:
reaction, reform, and revolution

• Bismarck is credited with unifying Germany, eventually establishing Wilhelm I as emperor

• Italy unifies in late 1800s after Austrians defeated in the north, and the Papacy’s territorial power ended in Rome.

• by the end of the 19th century France, Germany and Italy all had parliamentary governments

• England was already a constitutional monarchy
reaction, reform, and revolution

- Britain and Spain lose colonies in the Americas
- *new imperialism* leads to the colonization of much of the world by European powers
  - Great Britain ruled fifth of the world’s land area, amounting to 25% of the world’s population
- Migration from Europe to the U.S. is great
  - U.S. absorbs 20 million people from 1870-1910
Music in the 19th century

• power shifts from the hereditary nobility to the wealthy

• private orchestras disappear

• concerts become more “public” as more cities establish civic orchestras
Music in the 19th century

- rise in the importance of music to middle-class families
  - daughters learned to sing and play piano
  - owning a piano was a symbol of a cultured household
Music in the 19th century

- With decline in aristocratic patronage, the sale of music becomes even more important to composers
- Many composers had second jobs:
  - Schubert was a school teacher.
  - Berlioz and Robert Schumann were music critics.
  - Chopin taught piano.
  - Mahler, like many composers, conducted extensively.
Music in the 19th century

• the general rise in literacy led to a rise in musical literacy and to a rise in amateur music societies

• Brass Bands and Choral Societies were often a mark of distinction for a town or city.
Music in the 19th century

- Many believed that music making strengthened social bonds
- Factory owners encouraged workers to form musical groups
- Many European governments sponsored National Conservatories of Music
  - Paris Conservatory established in 1790; Bologna (1804); Milan (1808); London (1822)
  - Private Conservatories also established in Vienna (1817); Leipzig (1843); Peabody Conservatory (1857); New England Conservatory (1867)