

Composers of the Month.

Every morning that you come into school this year, you'll hear music filling the corridor! Each month we'll travel back in time to a different musical world and meet two exciting composers. Get ready to discover new sounds, tap your feet, and maybe even find a new favourite tune!

February – Romantic music

Romantic music is like a big, emotional story told with sound — full of feelings, imagination, and drama! It comes from about **200 years ago**, when composers wanted music to express **strong emotions**, personal ideas, and exciting scenes, almost like music with a heart and a voice. ❤️🎵

The tunes are often **sweeping and memorable**, and the music can feel dreamy, powerful, sad, joyful, or heroic - sometimes all in one piece! Romantic music isn't afraid to be loud or quiet, fast or slow, and it loves big contrasts and surprises.

Composers like **Chopin, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Liszt** wrote music that sounds passionate and expressive, as if the instruments are sharing their deepest feelings. Romantic music was inspired by **nature, love, stories, and imagination**, and it often feels like a musical adventure.

🎧 **Things to listen out for:**

- Big, emotional melodies that really sing 🎵
- Lots of contrast — very loud and very soft moments
- Music that speeds up and slows down for expression
- Rich, full sounds with many instruments 🎻🎺
- A feeling of drama, excitement, or deep emotion

It's the kind of music that feels **bold, expressive, and full of feeling** — like reading an exciting novel or watching a movie where your heart goes along for the ride! 🌙🔥🎹

If you want, I can also simplify this for younger kids or line it up side-by-side with Classical for easy comparison. 😊



Born: 7th July 1860

Died: 18th May 1911

Musical Period: Romantic (c. 1820–1900)

Key characteristics include **expressive melodies, rich harmonies, and strong emotions**. The music often tells stories or paints pictures, with big contrasts between loud and soft sounds.

Orchestras became **larger and more colourful**, with composers using music to share feelings, nature, and imagination. 🎵🌹🎻

Gustav Mahler

Gustav Mahler was a composer who wrote music that sounds like a **whole world in sound** 🌍🎵

He lived a little over **100 years ago**, and he loved using music to tell **big stories about life, nature, and feelings**.

Mahler's music can be **quiet like a whisper** or **huge like a mountain!** He often mixed **beautiful melodies** with surprising sounds,

so you never quite know what's coming next!

Mahler especially loved writing music for **very large orchestras**, with lots of instruments playing together. He even added things like **bells, bird-like sounds, and marching rhythms**, making his music feel colourful and alive.

👂 **Things to listen out for:**

- Music that feels like a long journey or story 🧑🎵
 - Very quiet moments followed by very loud ones
 - Sounds that remind you of nature, marching, or singing 🌲🥁
 - Big orchestras with lots of different instruments
 - Strong emotions — happy, sad, exciting, and mysterious
- Mahler's music is like **a musical adventure**, full of surprises and feelings — as if the orchestra is telling you a story without using any words! ✨🎻🎺

Richard Wagner



Born: 22nd May 1813

Died: 13th February 1883

Musical Period: Romantic (c. 1820–1900)

Key characteristics include **expressive melodies, rich harmonies, and strong emotions**. The music often tells stories or paints pictures, with big contrasts between loud and soft sounds.

Orchestras became **larger and more colourful**, with composers using music to share feelings, nature, and imagination. 🎵🌹🎻

🎵 What did Richard Wagner do?

Richard Wagner was a German composer who wrote **very dramatic music**, especially for **operas**. His operas are like **long musical stories**, with heroes, villains, magic, and adventure! 🏰⚔️🗡️

He didn't just write the music — he also created the stories and ideas, making everything work together like one giant show.

🎵 What was his music like?

Wagner's music is **powerful, bold, and full of emotion**. It often sounds grand and exciting, with big orchestras and rich, dramatic sounds. He used music to show **characters, feelings, and ideas**, so the music helps tell the story even without words.

👂 Things to listen out for:

- Big, dramatic sounds from a large orchestra 🎺🎻
- Music that feels heroic, mysterious, or intense
- Special themes that return to represent characters or ideas 🎵
- Long, flowing music with very few breaks
- Strong contrasts between quiet, tense moments and loud, exciting ones

Wagner's music feels like **a huge musical adventure** — like stepping into a fantasy world where the orchestra tells the story in a powerful and exciting way! ✨🎵🎭