

Franz Peter Schubert

(January 31, 1797 –
November 19, 1828)



Romantic Era Composer

Franz Peter Schubert was born in Vienna Austria (1797) to Franz Theodor Schubert and Elisabeth Vietz Schubert. His father was a parish schoolmaster. Of the fourteen children born to his parents, only five lived beyond infancy.

Their father was a well-known teacher, and his school was well attended. He was not a musician of fame or with formal training, but he taught his son some elements of music.



Parents of Franz Schubert



House where Franz Schubert was born

Franz's brother Ignaz gave him piano lessons. At 7, Franz began receiving lessons from Michael Holzer, the local church organist and choirmaster.

Franz also played the viola in the family string quartet, with brothers Ferdinand and Ignaz on violin and his father on the cello.

Schubert first came to the attention of Antonio Salieri, then Vienna's leading musical authority, in 1804, when his vocal talent was recognized.



In October 1808, (Age 10) he became a pupil at the Imperial Seminary through a choir scholarship. It was here Schubert was introduced to the overtures and symphonies of Mozart.

Meanwhile, his genius began to show in his compositions. Schubert was occasionally permitted to lead the school's orchestra, and Salieri decided to begin training him privately in musical composition and theory in these years.



Antonio Salieri 1750-1825
Teacher for Franz Schubert

In 1814, (age 17) he entered his father's school as teacher of the youngest students.

Unfortunately, Schubert didn't enjoy teaching, and was miserable in his new position. He did, however, continue to receive private lessons in composition from Salieri.



Schubert had many friends and fans of his music. These people took on a nickname: “Schubertians”. When the group gathered together to listen to and discuss Schubert’s music they called the event a “Schubertiade”.



During Schubert's lifetime, these events were generally informal, unadvertised gatherings, held at private homes.

Modern Schubertiades are more likely to be formal affairs, presented as concerts or festivals devoted to Schubert's music

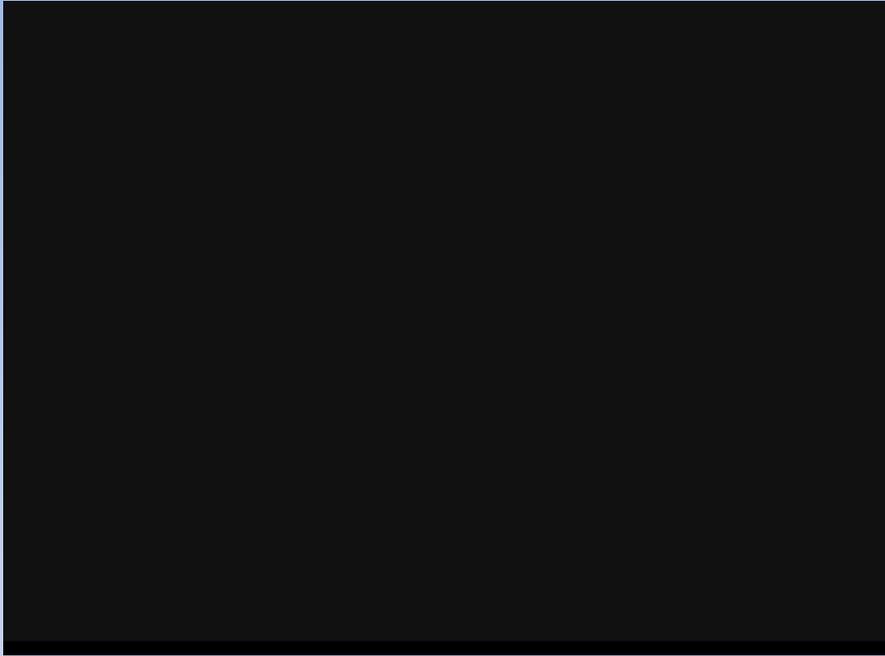


A Schubertiade with Franz Schubert at the piano

In the autumn of 1822, Schubert began writing a work which showed his maturity and genius as a composer. It is called the "Unfinished Symphony" in B minor.

Although Schubert completed the first and second movement to this symphony, he only left sketches of the final movement. We do not know why it was never finished. It is also remarkable that he didn't mention it to any of his friends. This symphony is considered one of Schubert's masterpieces and is performed frequently.





Another of Schubert's most famous pieces is
Ava Marie. It has been sung by opera and
popular singers since it was first written.



- Franz Schubert's *Trois marches militaires* (“Three Military Marches”) are among the many works for piano four-hands that the composer produced during his lifetime. The three pieces were published in Vienna in 1826.
- The first of these three marches is far more famous than the others; in fact, it is one of Schubert's most famous compositions, and it is often simply referred to as “Schubert's *Marche Militaire*”.
- There have been numerous arrangements of this march.



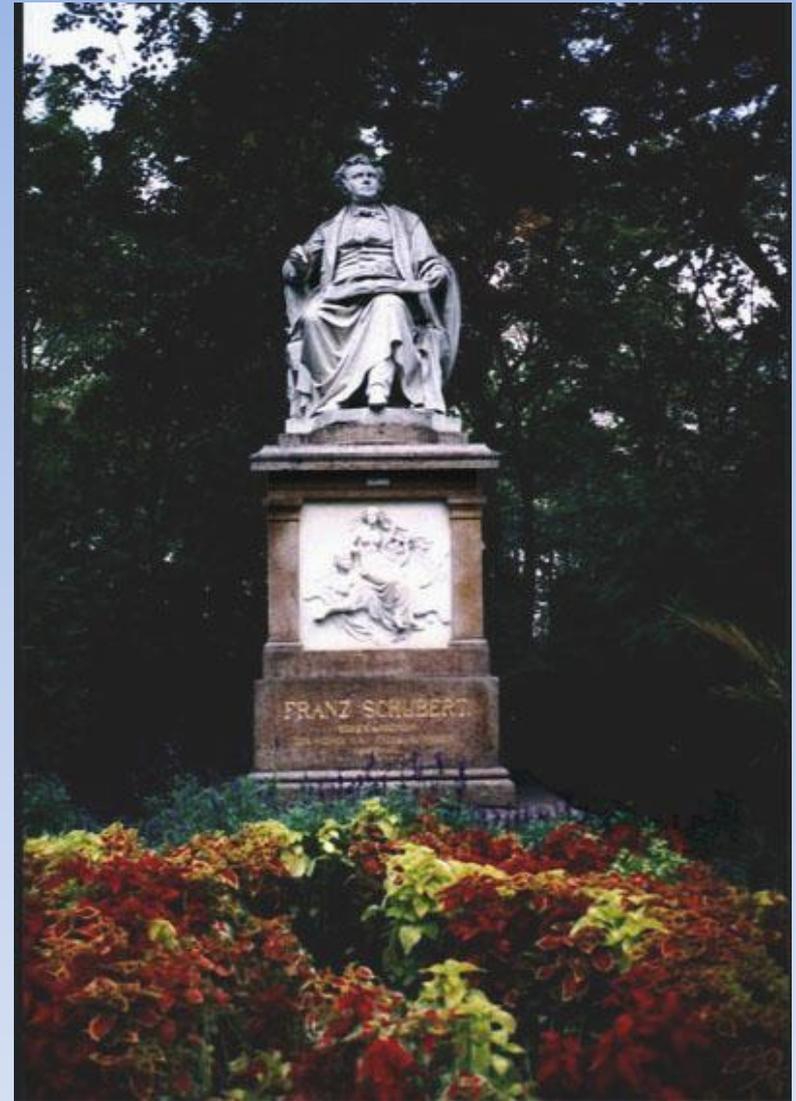
Schubert wrote some 600 Lieder (romantic songs), nine symphonies (including the famous "Unfinished Symphony"), church music, operas and a large body of chamber and solo piano music. Appreciation of his music during his lifetime was limited, but interest in Schubert's work increased dramatically in the decades following his death at the age of 31. The cause of his death was officially diagnosed as typhoid fever.



Schubert was buried next to Beethoven, whom he had admired all his life.

Beethoven is said to have examined Schubert's music and exclaimed, "Truly, the spark of divine genius resides in this Schubert!"

Today, Schubert is admired as one of the leading composers of the early Romantic era. He is also one of the most frequently performed composers.



Franz Schubert Memorial