

Franz Liszt

About Franz Liszt

Born: October 22, 1811
Died: July 31, 1886

While Franz Liszt was a composer, conductor, critic and teacher, he was best known as a pianist. He was the first of the virtuoso performers. When Liszt walked onto the stage, he took over the hall, amazing the audience with his incredible technique and his awesome presence. He was a true showman and the man who invented the solo recital. Although some were annoyed by his personality, Liszt was one of the greatest pianists the world has ever known.

As a composer, Liszt, of course, wrote music primarily for the piano. He also transcribed popular orchestral works for this instrument.

Many of his pieces are tremendously difficult and few pianists can perform them properly. Later in his life, he started writing music for the orchestra and composed wonderful melodies.

Liszt also wrote music criticism and was known as a conductor and teacher. He trained many of the performers of his time in his tradition.

Because of his ego and attitude, Liszt was always a controversial figure. However, he is recognized as one of the dominant personalities of 19th century Romantic music.

Hungarian Rhapsody #2

A **rhapsody** is a free-form piece that takes different tunes and strings them together.

Liszt composed 19 Hungarian Rhapsodies. Hungarian Rhapsody #2 is the most famous and became a part of virtually every performance of the greatest pianists of the time. The piece has two distinct sections – the **Lassan** (Hungarian for slowly), the slow section of the *csárdás*, a Hungarian folk dance; and the **Friska** (from the Hungarian *friss* for fresh), the fast section of the *csárdás*.

When you listen to the Hungarian Rhapsody #2 can you hear the formal, stately tone in the Lassan and the turbulent, jubilant tone in the Friska?



What Happened During the Lifetime of Franz Liszt?

1803	The Louisiana Purchase Ohio Statehood
1811	Franz Liszt was born on October 22nd. He came from Raiding in the Kingdom of Hungary which was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
1816	Indiana Statehood
1826	The First Photographs
1836	The Battle of the Alamo
1849	Hungary split from Austria Henry David Thoreau published <i>Civil Disobedience</i>
1861-1865	The American Civil War
1867	Alaska purchased from Russia
1876	Alexander Bell invented the telephone
1878	Thomas Edison developed electric light
1886	Franz Liszt died on July 31st Statue of Liberty unveiled
1889	Eiffel Tower built in Paris
1903	Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk



The Piano

Franz Liszt was best known as a pianist. Write as many musical words as you can that begin with the letters in **PIANO**.

P _____

I _____

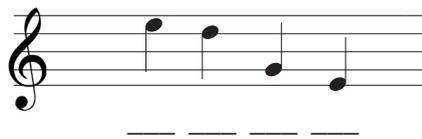
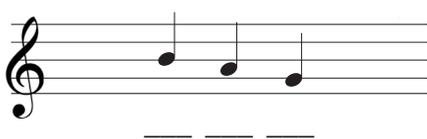
A _____

N _____

O _____

Spell Using Note Names

Use the notes on the musical staff to spell the words below.



Musical Innovations

Franz Liszt was a composer, conductor, critic, and pianist. He was also an innovator. **He invented:**

- The Symphonic Poem - a new musical form
- The Master Class - a new way to teach
- The Solo Piano Recital - Liszt was the first to turn the piano so the audience could see his hands and feet when he performed.
- New ways of conducting