

## LESSON 16

### THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

The Romantic Period was from approximately 1830-1900. Music of the Romantic Period is the most popular of the four periods of music history. Some characteristics of this music are:

- a. **Music became more emotional:** Much of the music of the Romantic Period was written about things, people, places, or feelings. The titles in music of the period reflect the mood of the piece, such as *The Merry Farmer* by Schumann, *To a Wild Rose* by MacDowell, or *Elfin Dance* by Grieg.
- b. **Harmonies more complicated:** Composers began to add more colorful notes to their chords, using more chromaticism, and not staying within the tonal scale as much as in music of the Classical Period.
- c. **Lyric Melodies:** Many of the melodies in music of the Romantic Period are lovely, singing melodies that have become favorites among music lovers.
- d. **Rhythms more complicated:** Music of the Romantic Period contains many syncopated rhythms (strong notes on weak beats), complicated sixteenth note and dotted note combinations, triplets, cross rhythms (2 against 3), etc.

This example, from *Reaper's Song* by Schumann, shows these characteristics: A descriptive title, more complex chords, more complicated rhythms (notice the ties), lyric melody.



Four well known composers of the Romantic Period are:

Franz Schubert: Born in Austria

Robert Schumann: Born in Germany

Peter Tchaikovsky: Born in Russia

Edvard Grieg: Born in Norway

Answer these questions.

1. What type of titles are often used in music of the Romantic Period?

Descriptive Titles

2. What changes took place in the harmonies of the music from the Romantic Period?

They get more Complicated

3. What type of melodies occur in music from the Romantic Period?

Lyric, Singing

4. Describe some types of rhythms used in Romantic music.

Sine apoled, sixteenth, triplet, Cross rhythms

5. Name four composers from the Romantic Period and their birthplaces.

Franz Schubert - Austria

Robert Schumann - Germany

Peter Tchaikovsky - Russia

Edvard Grieg - Norway