

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Biography:

- Born in Hungary; never spoke Hungarian but espoused Hungarian Nationalism
- Child prodigy on piano, family moved to Vienna and Paris so he could study
- Concert tours all around Europe, often performing piano transcriptions of his and others' works
- Took preliminary Holy orders later in life (led to writing religious music)

Style Periods: can be confusing because of frequent revisions, different arrangements etc.

- **First Period** (1834-38): lots of piano music
 - **Transcendental Etudes:** some were nearly impossible for any other pianist to play; many have programmatic titles
 - **Annees de Pelerinage Books 1 and 2:** musical travelogues (Switzerland and Italy). Some are short Chopin-esque pieces, others full-fledged tone poems
- **Second Period** (1839-47): years as a travelling virtuoso. More piano works, many transcriptions of orchestral works
 - **Hungarian Rhapsodies**
- **Third Period** (1846-61): Music director at Weimar, had an orchestra
 - **Sonata in B Minor** (1853): innovative in form
 - **Mephisto Waltz**
 - **Les Preludes**
 - **Faust Symphony:** an example of **thematic transformation**
- **Fourth Period** (1861-69): mostly religious music
- **Fifth Period** (1869-1883): abrupt change in style, very experimental
 - Uses experimental harmony (modal, altered chords, augmented triads, parallel empty 5ths, whole tone scale)
 - **Annees de Pelerinage Book 3**

Biggest Contribution:

- new approach to harmony: "Circle of 5ths" is virtually replaced with "circle of 3rds"