

Music 320

Contemporaries of Beethoven

There were many contemporaries of Beethoven who were active and innovative; they set the stage for rest of century. Some of their innovations:

- **exploration of distant key relationships:** within a movement contrasting key area would sometimes not be closely related; even a tritone away (Dusseck)
- **borrowed chords:** chord that would be diatonic in minor used in major passage, and vice versa e.g. iv or dim ii in a major piece (Schubert et. al)
- **elaborate figuration**, technical complexity
- **programmatic** titles, program works such as symphonies
- preponderance of **minor keys**
- interest among German composers in **German Opera** (no heir to Mozart); Weber especially; incorporated features from German Romantic literature:
 - supernatural
 - nature images/ forests
 - Weber used system of “reminiscence motives” that would develop into Wagner’s Leitmotives
- suggestion of **folk music** in melody, esp. in Weber; later Brahms