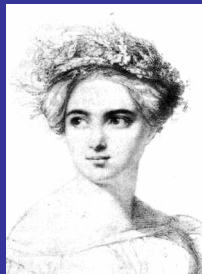


Felix, Paul and Fanny Mendelssohn



Abraham Mendelssohn (1776-1835): a German Jewish banker and philanthropist



Fanny Cäcilie Mendelssohn (1805-1847): pianist and composer

Paul Mendelssohn: financier and cellist



Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847): composer, pianist and conductor

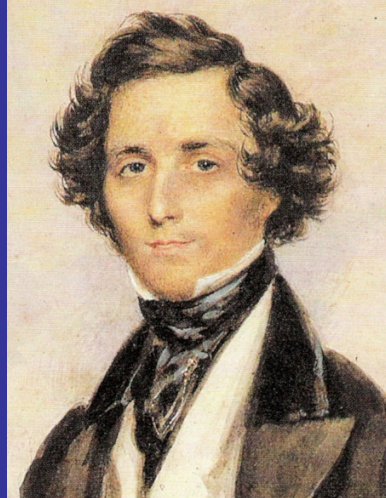
Felix Mendelssohn: *Cello Sonata 2 in D, Op.58 – Allegro assai vivace*

- 🎵 Felix's brother Paul was a talented amateur cellist
- 🎵 Felix's two cello sonatas, *Variations Concertantes* and a *Song Without Words* for cello and piano were written with brother Paul in mind
- 🎵 Sonata No.2 was written in 1843



Felix Mendelssohn

- ♪ Mendelssohn's formative influences were Bach and Mozart
- ♪ Schumann called him "the Mozart of the 19th century, the most illuminating of composers"



Portrait of Mendelssohn by James Warren Childe

Fanny Mendelssohn: *Wenn ich in deine augen sehe*

When I look into your eyes
All my grief and woe vanish,
But when I kiss your lips
I am whole again.

- ♪ In her teens, Fanny was as gifted as a pianist and composer as Felix. But her father did not allow her to pursue a major career in music:

"Music will perhaps become Felix's profession, while for you it can and must only be an ornament, never the root of your being and doing"



Fanny Mendelssohn: *Wenn ich in deine augen sehe*

When I lean against your breast
Something like the joy of heaven passes over me,
But when you say: "I love you!"
I must weep bitter tears.



- ♪ Her compositions were therefore mainly songs (some 300 song settings), some of which were originally published in Felix's name
- ♪ Her diary and correspondence provide vivid and valuable information on the musical life of her time

Robert and Clara Schumann



Lithograph by Eduard Kaiser

Clara Schumann (1819-96): *Piano Trio in G minor*

- Clara's father, Friedrich Wieck, was more encouraging, and she became an internationally recognised pianist
- She also composed. But as Robert noted, "children and a husband who is always in the realms of imagination do not go well with composition"
- She wrote the *Piano Trio* when pregnant with their fourth child in 1845, and therefore unable to tour as a concert pianist



Clara Schumann: *Piano Trio in G minor*

- *The Piano Trio* is in four movements. This is an excerpt from the third movement, an *Andante in G major*
- The cello is charmingly featured in this section, with skilfully varied scoring



Robert Schumann (1810-56): Two of the *Davidsbündler Tänze Op.6*



Robert Schumann (1810-56): Two of the *Davidsbündler Tänze Op.6*

1. *Balladenmassig: Sehr rasch*



- ♪ Composed in 1837
- ♪ Dedicated to Clara Wieck, to whom he had become secretly engaged
- ♪ She was the daughter of Schumann's piano teacher, who strongly opposed the match
- ♪ Clara and Robert married in 1840

Robert Schumann: *Davidsbündler* Tanze

2. *Frisch*

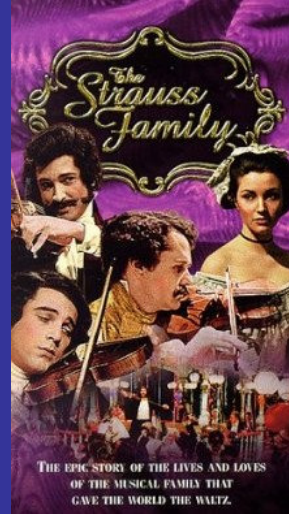
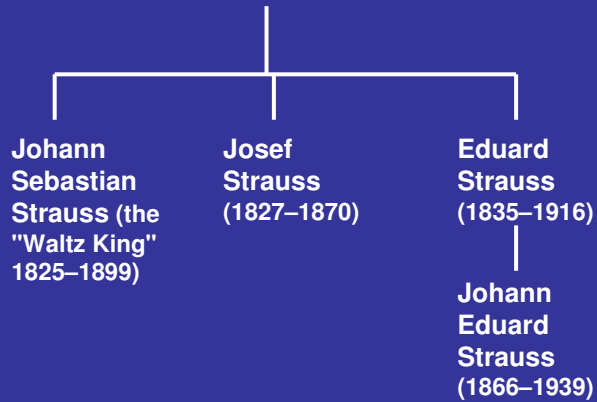
- ♪ Schumann's music often reflects the emotions of his turbulent personal life, which was affected by bipolar disorder
- ♪ The *Davidsbündler* were Schumann's imaginary band of brothers. Of these, Florestan and Eusebus depicted two sides of his own character, one fiery and ardent, the other reflective and gentle
- ♪ He composed some of his finest works including the *Piano Concerto* and later symphonies during periods of illness, depression and hallucinations

Robert Schumann (1810-56)

- ♪ By 1852 he had lapsed into insanity and asked to be placed in an asylum "as he could no longer control his own mind and could not know what he might do next"
- ♪ He attempted suicide by throwing himself into a river. Soon after he entered an asylum near Bonn
- ♪ Clara was kept away from him and her letters intercepted: it would be over two years before she saw her husband again. Their last child was born several months after he was committed. The next time she was with her husband was only a couple of days before he died in July 1856.

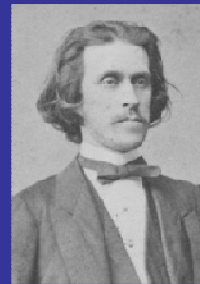
The Strauss Family

Johann Baptist Strauss (1804–1849)



Johann and Josef Strauss:

Pizzicato Polka



- ♪ It is extremely rare for an entire work (even a shortish one like this) to be played by the string orchestra on plucked strings
- ♪ Another example is the second movement of the *Simple Symphony* by Benjamin Britten