

Exploring the Creative Style and Aesthetic Features of Romantic Period Piano Music

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Abstract: This paper mainly does an in-depth analysis of the creative style and aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period in order to explore the importance and influence of Romantic music in the field of piano music. This paper firstly introduces the background and musical characteristics of the Romantic period, emphasizes the key elements such as emotional expression, individualism and fantasy, makes corresponding elaboration on the changes in the creative style of piano music in the Romantic period, such as musical structure, harmony, melody, technique, timbre and dynamics, etc., and integrates and summarizes the aesthetic characteristics of the Romantic music, such as emotional expression, freedom of creativity, narrativity, and the fusion of art and nature. etc. In the analysis of representative works, the thesis of this paper is centered on the representative works of famous composers such as Beethoven, Chopin, Schubert and Schumann, and their musical characteristics. Finally, it evaluates the influence and significance of Romantic piano music on later generations, such as inspiring subsequent composers, continuing the tradition and sustaining its influence. The purpose of this paper is to systematically illustrate the creative style and aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period, and to provide readers with a true and reliable reference basis for understanding and appreciating the development of piano music in this period.

Keywords: Romantic Period, Piano Music, Music Composition Style, Aesthetic Characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

As a musical instrument with a wide range and rich sound, the Romantic period is the most important stage in the history of piano music development, and the style of piano music creation and aesthetic characteristics of this period have changed dramatically compared with the previous period. The composers' pursuit of personalized expression and emotional authenticity, as well as their in-depth exploration of technique, harmony and timbre, made piano music reach new heights in this period.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

Romanticism emerged in Europe from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 19th century, a period in which the people of Europe were experiencing, for example, the Industrial Revolution, the French Revolution, and a series of other political, social, and economic changes, and the whole European society underwent major changes. In particular, the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th centuries had a great impact on the whole society at that time; the emergence of mechanized production and the factory system changed people's way of life and social structure, the rapid development of cities, and the intensification of social class differentiation, the impact of the Industrial Revolution made many people feel lost, and many dissatisfactions with the real world, and people began to seek for a more idealized and emotional lifestyle and people began to seek a more idealized and emotional way of life and expression, which laid the foundation for the rise of Romanticism. At the same time, the French Revolution (1789-1799) and the Napoleonic Wars (1804-1815) shook the political pattern of the whole European continent, and there were regime changes, social unrest and wars during this period, and many people felt uneasy and fearful about the social unrest in this period, and many artists began to try to respond to this uneasiness through the pursuit of personal freedom, patriotism and national consciousness. Many artists began to try to respond to this uneasiness through the pursuit of personal freedom, patriotism and national consciousness; and the social unrest also made the European people's understanding and appreciation of nature at that time began to change, the European people began to regard nature as the source of inspiration and the shelter of the soul, through the proximity of nature to find the true, pure and transcendent experience of reality, the praise and love of nature became an important element of the Romanticism thought. These social backgrounds mentioned above together contributed to the rise of Romanticism. Romantic music artists (composers/performers) attempted to respond to the social turmoil of the time through the expression of their personal emotions, the praise of nature and the pursuit of an idealized world, and they hoped to find emotional resonance and realize the transcendence of the human spirit through their artistic creations; therefore, the cultural atmosphere of the Romantic period had a strong color of focusing on the expression of personal emotions and the inner world, which is reflected in the music and art works of this period by the artists'

pursuit of uniqueness and free creation (Durand, 2020; Hamilton, 2007). As shown in the figure below (Figure 1), it is the image of music creation and performance scene in the Romantic period.



Figure 1: Scenes of musical composition and performance in the Romantic period

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

3.1. The Importance of Music to Express Emotion and Individualism

The music of the Romantic period focuses on the expression of personal inner emotions and feelings, and conveys the power of emotions through music. The composers aim to integrate their own emotions and experiences into their works to make the music more personalized and unique, so as to achieve the purpose of pursuing true and profound emotional expression; in other words, the music of this period is characterized by the complexity and diversity of the inner world conveyed through music.

3.2. Pursuit of Nature and Fantasy

Many composers in the Romantic period are generally happy to use music to depict the beauty and grandeur of the natural world, and to explore the intrinsic emotional connection between man and nature, and the music works mostly show the aesthetic tendency of pursuing fantasy and imagination, in order to create a music world full of mysterious and fantastical colors, and the pursuit of this kind of nature and fantasy makes Romantic music often full of poetic and transcendence of reality (Durand, 2020).

3.3. Rethinking History and Tradition

Most of the composers in the Romantic period began to reflect on the traditional musical norms and forms in an attempt to break through the constraints and create a freer and more personalized musical language, and their reinterpretation of the past musical works, as well as their reevaluation of the ancient traditions, opened up a new path for the development of music at that time. At the same time, composers of the Romantic period, influenced by historical events and national culture, would also incorporate these elements into their musical creations, thus displaying unique characteristics of the era (Li, 2020; Lim, 2004).

4. COMPOSITIONAL STYLE OF PIANO MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

4.1. Changes in Musical Structure and Form

Piano music in the Romantic period has changed greatly in musical structure and form. Compared with the strict and standardized musical structure of the Classical period, piano music in the Romantic period pays more attention to individual emotional expression and autonomous creation. For example, the structure of sonatas at this time is no longer fixed as in the classical period, but the freedom and flexibility are very significant, and many composers began to use free variations, themes and variations and other forms to show their inner feelings and creative talent. Take Beethoven's *Variations in E-flat Major* as an example, it uses the form of free variations, showing different emotional colors and professional skills in each variation (Florea, 2020).

4.2. Characteristics of Harmony and Melody

Piano music in the Romantic period also has unique characteristics in terms of harmony and melody. Harmonically, composers pay more attention to the richness and complexity of harmony, adopting more chord changes and counterpoint techniques to enhance the expressiveness and emotional depth of the music, and melodically Romantic music emphasizes individuality and uniqueness, for example, by using broad and expressive melodic lines to demonstrate the complexity of emotions. Taking Schumann's *Fantasia* as an example, he created a musical work full of Romanticism through his rich harmonic progression and unique melodic line. As shown in Figure 2 below, it's a portrait of Schumann's composition scene.

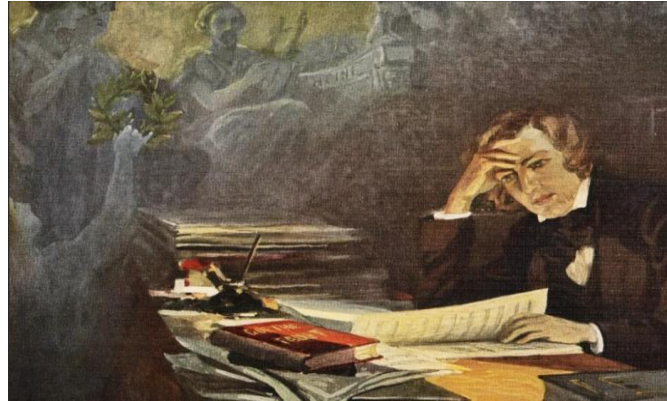


Figure 2: Portrait of Robert Schumann composing a scene

4.3. Artist's Requirements for Technique and Performance

Piano music in the Romantic period also significantly increased the skills and performance requirements of the performer, many composers created a series of challenging works, requiring the performer to have more advanced skills and expressive power, while the piano skills requirements are also since this period gradually become more complex, professional, such as the requirements of speed, span requirements, finger dexterity requirements, etc., aimed at the demonstration of skill The aim is to make the works more vivid and touching through the demonstration of technique and personal interpretation. Like Franz Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6* is a work that requires a high degree of skill to interpret, as shown in the following figure (Figure 3), which is a conceptual drawing of Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody-Pest Carnival*. Through the dynamic character color expression of this conceptual drawing, it can be seen that this work contains fast scales, jumping hand positions, complex fingerings, rapid note overlapping and other complex techniques, which require the performer to have precise and accurate skills. With the complexity of the technique, the performer needs to have precise finger coordination, as well as an accurate control of speed and strength in order to perform this piece perfectly.



Figure 3: Liszt, Hungarian Rhapsody-Pest Carnival Conceptualization

4.4. Exploration of Timbre and Dynamics

Piano music of the Romantic period is also more diversified in its exploration of timbre and dynamics, with composers focusing on timbral changes and richness, creating colorful timbral effects through different techniques and approaches, and also paying attention to dynamic changes and expressiveness, making the music more vivid and touching through delicate playing techniques and emotional expression. For example, Frederic Chopin's *Heroic Polish Dance Op. 11* is a work of great emotional expressiveness, which combines a variety of emotions such as passion, sadness, and grandeur in one work, which requires the performer to accurately capture each emotional transition and express it, and need to reasonably control each subtle change in timbre, and make the listener deeply feel the emotion embedded in the piece through dynamic control and flexible playing techniques. Through dynamic control and flexible playing techniques, the listener can deeply feel the emotional world contained in the piece.

4.5. Fantasia and Improvisation Styles of Romantic-Era Compositions

Fantasy is a free-form work, usually composed of several consecutive parts, without strict structural requirements, allowing the composer to freely exercise his imagination and explore a variety of emotional and musical expressions. For example, Robert Schumann's *Fantasia Op. 17* has a strong romanticism color, which is composed of several consecutive parts, combining emotional elements such as sadness, passion and fantasy, demonstrating Schumann's rich imagination and improvisation ability. Impromptu is a kind of work similar to improvisation, which aims to give the performer the greatest freedom and space for expression, and is usually performed in a free form, which is a visual manifestation of the performer's ability to improvise and express his emotions. For example, Franz Schubert's *Impromptu Op. 90 No. 3* is a classic work of improvisation, which fully demonstrates Schubert's talent of improvisation with its soft and smooth melody, and its flexibility and freedom like improvisation (Haijiao, 2019; Liao, 2019).

4.6. Styles of Variation and Sonata Composition in the Romantic Period

Variation (Variation) is the variation and development of a theme. The composer can give the music different colors and emotions by changing the melody, harmony, rhythm and other elements. Sonata (Sonata) is a kind of multi-movement works, usually including fast, slow and dance music

and other different movements, sonata with its rigorous structure and complexity of the development of the music is known, but also gives the composer full expression of space, Ludwig van Beethoven's *Pathétique Sonata Op. 26* is a sonata with a strong emotional and rigorous structure, which covers four movements. It is a sonata with strong emotion and rigorous structure, covering four movements, which demonstrates the uniqueness of Beethoven's compositional style and the artistic charm of the sonata through skillful thematic changes and rich musical development. It can be seen that the Romantic period of piano music creation style, that is, the composer in these forms (fantasies, improvisations, variations, sonatas) in the free play of their imagination, showing a very rich expression of emotional exploration as well as the ability to create skills, and these stylistic features also further make the Romantic piano music is full of individuality, emotion, expressive, and for the development of later music creation opened up a new road for the development of later music creation.

5. AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PIANO MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

5.1. Emotional Expression and Introspection

The aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period emphasize the expression of emotion and introspection. Composers express their inner world and emotional experience through music creation, so that listeners can resonate with deeper emotions; for example, the use of rich timbres, dynamic harmonic effects, and expressive melodies, conveying the complex emotions of sadness, joy, love, hate, and so on. Like Robert Schumann's *Fantasia Op. 15*, it expresses the desire for love and the emotion of his inner world through the soft melody and smooth music language; and Franz Liszt's *Dream of Love* is a smooth and passionate melody, which perfectly expresses the deep emotion and passion of love.

5.2. The Pursuit of Freedom and Originality

The aesthetics of piano music in the Romantic period has a very distinctive individuality and originality, composers are no longer subject to traditional forms and rules, but boldly explore new ways of creation, new musical language, focusing on the expression of their own unique ideas, in order to achieve the effect of showing their own personalities and artistic pursuits through music. For example, Frederic Chopin's *Nocturne Op. 9 No.*

2 is a very representative Romantic work, in which Chopin creates a dreamy atmosphere through delicate timbral changes and dynamic contrasts; the melody jumps lightly in the soft piano tone, while the sub-melody highlights sadness and passionate emotions through stronger dynamics and deeper timbre. Felix Mendelssohn's *Speechless Song in E-flat Major Op. 30 No. 3*, on the other hand, demonstrates the composer's unique compositional style and personality with its elegant and gorgeous melody and complex harmonic changes, so it can be seen that composers in the Romantic period, by giving the music more expressive and personalized, made it the Romantic period's unique charm (Djahwasi & Saidon, 2021).

5.3. Narrative and Dramatic Elements

The aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period are also manifested in its certain narrative and dramatic nature, where the composer tells stories, depicts scenes and expresses emotions through music; for example, through the structure, melody, harmony and other elements of the music, a dramatic effect is created, so that the musical work has a distinctive storytelling and dramatic tension. Take Liszt's *Bells* as an example, the work is a very typical Romantic piano work, which mainly utilizes music to describe the sadness and solemnity of the bells in an old church, giving a strong sense of narrative and drama (Celenza, 2019).

5.4. Integration of Art and Nature

Piano music in the Romantic period pursues the fusion of art and nature, and composers often express their praise and depiction of the natural world through music, so the aesthetics of piano music in the Romantic period tends to have a more obvious natural flavor. For example, the use of rich timbre dynamics, imitation of natural sounds, landscapes, so that the musical works have a beautiful picture of the white space and imagination, many composers will also use music to depict the natural scenery, such as mountains, forests, wind and rain, to create an imaginative and romantic music world, such as Robert Schumann's *Forest Scene Op. 82* is a depiction of the natural scenery, the tune is mainly through the soft harmony of the music, the music is a natural and romantic music. The tune mainly expresses the tranquility, vitality and mystery of the forest through soft harmonies, light melodies and crisp piano tones. Another example is Metzler's *Storm* is a piano work with strong natural elements, through the music to express the power and grandeur of the storm in nature, giving people a strong sense of nature and artistic enjoyment (Whipple, 2018).

5.5. Supernatural Fantasy Aesthetics

The piano music of the Romantic period also has certain supernatural fantasy aesthetics, and the composer expresses his supernatural fantasy and spiritual world through music, creating a mysterious and dreamy musical atmosphere. For example, Tchaikovsky's *Nocturne Op. 19 No. 4* is a work that expresses supernatural fantasy. Through soft melody, light notes and smooth fingering, this piece shows a mysterious and dreamy night scene, which brings the listener into a supernatural world, and lets people feel the fantasies and pursuits contained in the music, and the supernatural fantasies expressed through the music, and the thus created The mysterious and dreamy musical atmosphere created through the expression of supernatural fantasy in music further enhances the emotional expressiveness and personalization of the music, making the piano music of the Romantic period a unique art form. Comprehensively speaking, the aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period are mainly reflected by the sense of profoundness, unique personality, drama, nature, fantasy, etc. From a realistic point of view, piano music in the Romantic period has a more colorful way of expression (Guozhong, 2017).

6. ANALYSIS OF REPRESENTATIVE WORKS OF PIANO MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

6.1. Representative Works of Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, his life creation of a wide range of genres, a large number, and its growth, but also through the French Revolution before and after the intense changes in European society, the creation of the works belongs to the times and the combination of individuality of the product of its attainments in the field of the piano, to a large extent, to promote the performance of the piano amplitude skills. As shown in the picture below (Figure 4), it is Beethoven's piano performance portrait.

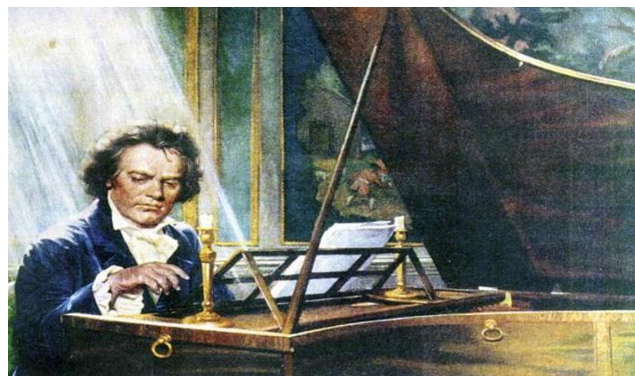


Figure 4: Portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven playing the piano

Beethoven's musical composition, strictly speaking, covers a number of periods, and is still considered by a large number of people to be a master of the classical period, but the Romanticism expressed in many of his works is very obvious, and the later part of his life also experienced the emergence and flourishing of the Romantic period. *The Moonlight Sonata (Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2)* is Ludwig van Beethoven's representative Romantic work, which mainly adopts a three-part structure, i.e., fast-slow-fast, and is divided into three movements: the first one is the Adagio sostenuto, and the second is the Allegretto. The first movement is Adagio sostenuto, the second movement is Allegretto, and the third movement is Presto agitato. The first movement (Adagio) Part A (Theme 1) opens with a soft, mysterious melody in the key of C# minor, with a slow tempo and flowing notes, giving a sense of silence and depth. part B (Transposition) is in the key of E major, presenting a bright and calming ambience, with more vibrant notes and harmonies, setting the scene for the next part. part A (Theme 1) is reproduced as a repetition of part A, similar to the opening but slightly more dynamic. Similar to the beginning, but with slight variations, it ends mainly with a softer melody and a diminishing volume. The second movement (Dance) is an intermediate section, contrasting with the first movement, and adopting the three-part structure of the trio (A-B-A). The lilting melody and brisk tempo of the A part give a feeling of elegance and vivacity, while the B part, in A-flat major, slows down the tempo a little and adds some passion and expression, and the A part is reproduced as a repeat of the A part again, and concludes in a similar way. The third movement (Allegro) is the climax of the whole sonata and unfolds in a fast, intense and energetic way, beginning with an atmosphere of tension and conflict around the strong notes and sharp rhythms of the C# minor key, the middle section displays more complex and virtuosic music, including fast scales, jumps and successive repetitions, and, finally, the movement ends with great power and passion, making an impressive impression. Beethoven's skillful compositional structure and musical expression in the Moonlight Sonata combines softness with passion, melancholy with vigor, demonstrating a unique Romantic style. As shown in the following figure (Figure 4), it is an image of Beethoven playing the Moonlight Sonata.

6.2. Frederic Chopin's Representative Works

Frédéric Chopin was a Polish composer and pianist who learned to play the piano at the age of 6 and was composing at the age of 7. His first work, a Polish Dance, was written in 1817, and demonstrates an extraordinary

talent for improvisation. Chopin's *Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2*, is one of the most familiar classics of the Romantic period, and its structure is ABA, also known as two-part form. As shown in the figure below (Figure 5), the score of *Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2* is schematic.

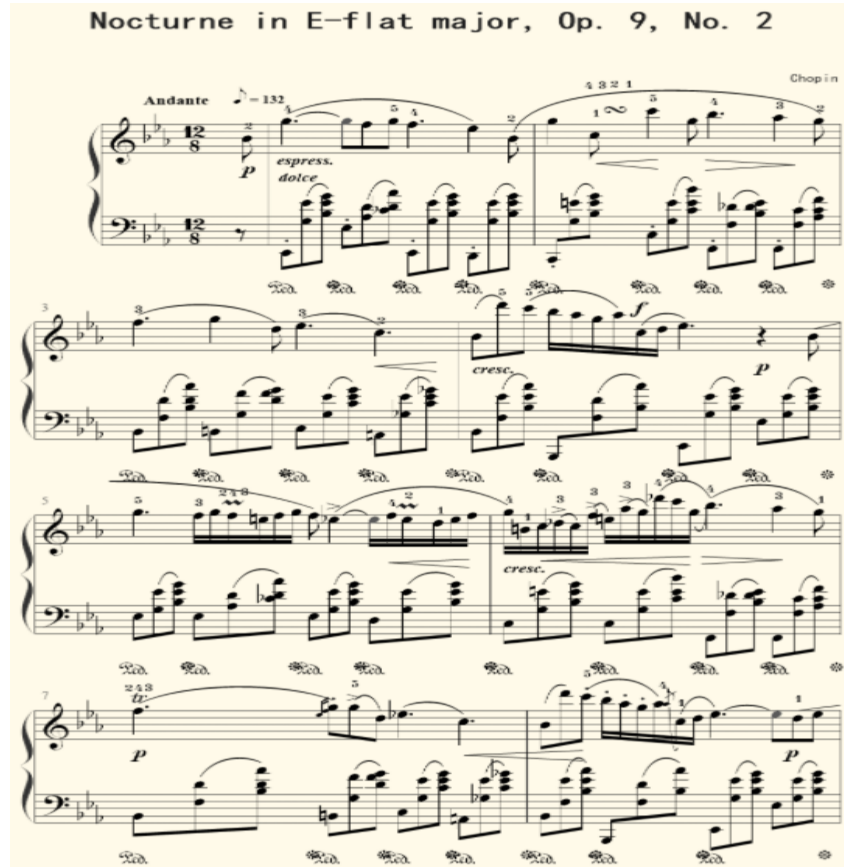


Figure 5: Schematic of the score of *Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2*

Part A is the opening theme, consisting of a soft, lyrical melody and simple harmonies, showing the beauty and elegance in piano music of the Romantic period through slow and smooth rhythms, and using rich timbre changes and personalized expression for emotional expression. Part B, as the middle section, is in stark contrast to Part A, with a faster tempo and a more complex melody, which is to be used to demonstrate the development of the piece with richer harmonies and stronger Part B is the middle section, in contrast to Part A. The melody is more complex, with richer harmonies and stronger dynamics, and it serves as the climax of the piece. Afterwards, Part A returns again, but with a different sound, the melody and harmonies are the same as those of Part A, but with a change in technique and timbre, which adds to the variety and richness of the piece. Frederic Chopin's *Nocturne in E-flat Major (Op. 9, No. 2)* has the typical characteristics of the piano score in the Romantic period, i.e., it is beautiful and lyrical, dominated by a soft and dreamy melody, and expresses the

inner emotions through a series of elegant and smooth notes. In *Nocturne in E-flat Major*, Chopin skillfully utilizes rich musical techniques, such as arpeggios, ornaments, and continuous rapid scales, demonstrating the piano's technique and expressive power, and at the same time, through the carefully orchestrated changes in dynamics, the sound changes gradually from a soft and warm sound to a passionate climax, and then to a soft and cozy ending, demonstrating the richness of the music's layers and variations. *Nocturne in E-flat Major* embodies the aesthetic characteristics of piano music composition in the Romantic period, fully demonstrating the characteristics of the tune's beautiful lyricism, expressiveness, virtuosic requirements, dynamic and timbral changes, emotional expression, and the display of personal character, which are also representative features of piano music in the Romantic period, influencing the compositional styles of many later composers (Zhang, 2015).

6.3. Works of Franz Schubert

As shown in the picture below (Figure 6), it is Franz Schubert, an Austrian composer, belonging to the representative figure of early Romantic music, who composed a large number of works of various genres in his short life of 31 years. *The Piano Sonata No. 5 in A-flat Major* is one of Schubert's major works, also known as Moments Musicaux. The sonata consists of four movements, the Allegro moderato (Allegro moderato) movement is in standard sonata form and consists of the presentation, development and recapitulation of two themes with a sad, romantic emotional coloring.



Figure 6: Portrait bust of Franz Schubert

The Andante sostenuto movement opens with soft and calm music,

depicting a serene atmosphere through warm melodies and elegant harmonies, and is relatively simple in structure, unfolding in the form of an ABA. The Scherzo movement opens with fast rhythms and light music, depicting a cheerful and lively atmosphere, and is structured in the form of an ABA or similar trio. The Allegro giusto (Allegro proper) movement, with its energetic rhythms and intense music, depicts an atmosphere of passion and determination, and is structured in the standard sonata form, with the presentation, development, and recapitulation of two themes. This work demonstrates Schubert's typical Romantic compositional style and aesthetic characteristics, such as Schubert's ability to express deep and introspective emotions through rich melody, harmony and musicality, and the work is filled with strong emotions such as sadness, pain, tenderness and passion. Schubert's unique harmonic treatment, through the use of changing chords to create a strong emotional atmosphere of blurred tonality is more obvious, in addition to the melody, beautiful, smooth melody enhances the expressive power of the work; and although Schubert still uses the traditional sonata and symphony form in some works, but also attaches more importance to the innovation of the composition, such as its compositional structure, increasing the freedom and variability, and at the same time, the structure of the composition is also more innovative, and the compositional structure is also more innovative. Although Schubert still used traditional sonata and symphony forms in some works, he also emphasized the innovation of composition, for example, he increased the freedom and variability in the structure of the composition, and also paid attention to the internal logical coherence of music. The Piano Sonata No. 5 in A-flat major demonstrates his emotionally charged, unique harmonic treatment and talent for melodic composition, which has made this work an oft-repeated classic of the Romantic period (Skrebkova-Filatova, 2015). As shown below (Figure 6), it's a bust portrait of Schubert.

6.4. Works of Robert Schumann

Robert Schumann was a German composer who is regarded as a representative of the mature period of Romantic music. As shown below (Figure 7), it's a portrait of Robert Schumann. Although he learned to play the piano and began composing at an early age, Schumann was more interested in literature in his childhood, writing novels and essays with a passion and occasionally engaging in some musical activities. While studying law at the University of Leipzig, he decided to become a pianist after hearing a Paganini recital in 1830. However, due to his late start, he had to catch up by practicing intensely and for long periods of time.

Unfortunately, the wrong way of practicing led to the complete paralysis of the middle finger of his right hand, forcing him to choose the path of becoming a composer. Despite this, Schumann did not give up on the piano, and his works still contain significant piano writing sections. Robert Schumann's *Traumerei* is one of the sketches from his collection *Kinderszenen* (Childhood Scenes).



Figure 7: Portrait of Robert Schumann

The *Fantasia* itself is actually a very short movement, usually only about two minutes of playing time, and utilizes a three-part ABA structure. The A section opens with a soft, soothing melody, depicting a warm, melancholic, yet enchanting ambience through simple continuo notes and musical ornamentation. The B section contrasts with the A section, utilizing a more active and powerful melody, with a slightly faster tempo and a relatively larger sound. The A section repeats (the A section returns again), but with slight variations from the initial A section, and overall maintains a similar mood of passion and determination. The A section repeats (the A section returns again), but with slight variations from the initial A section.

The B section contrasts with the A section by adopting a more active and powerful melody, with a slightly faster tempo and a relatively louder sound, presenting an emotion of passion and determination. the A section is repeated (with the A section returning once again), but with slight variations from the initial A section, maintaining a similar tonal emotion overall. Schumann was good at expressing deep and introspective emotions through his music, and *Fantasia* is a soft, melancholic melody that depicts

a warm and enchanting atmosphere, allowing the listener to feel a melancholic emotion, and Schumann often used rich and varied harmonies to create strong emotional color through the selection and change of chord progressions, and the harmonic treatments in *Fantasia* are simple and beautiful, complementing the melody. Although *Fantasia* is a very short movement, it conveys complex emotions and imagery to the listener through concise expression, and this directness is a distinctive feature of Schumann's works.

Therefore, Robert Schumann's *Fantasia* also demonstrates its unique Romantic compositional style and aesthetic characteristics, i.e., it constructs short and direct expression compositions by means of rich expression of emotions, harmonic treatment, variation, and decorative techniques, and in this way, creates short and direct expression compositions, and in this way, it creates a unique romantic style. expressive compositions, thereby creating a fascinating musical atmosphere, which makes it one of the most important musicians of the Romantic period (Sebba, 2014). As shown in the figure below (Figure 7), it is an image of Schumann's daily compositional performance scene.

7. EVALUATION OF THE INFLUENCE OF PIANO MUSIC IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD ON LATER GENERATIONS

7.1. Inspiration to Subsequent Composers

The richness of expression and individualization of Romantic piano music inspired subsequent composers, for example, Brahms continued the strong emotional expression of the Romantic period in his piano works, and at the same time paid more attention to the inheritance and development of the musical traditions of the early composers, such as Beethoven, Schumann, etc. The innovation of form, such as fantasy, improvisation and so on, also brought some inspiration to the subsequent composers. Formal innovations in piano music during the Romantic period, such as fantasies and improvisations, also brought some inspiration to the creation of subsequent composers, such as Debussy in his piano works in a form similar to Schumann's fantasies, fully demonstrating the Romantic emotions and imagination (Raykoff, 2014).

7.2. Continuity of Piano Playing Technique and Tradition

The complexity and technical requirements of piano music in the Romantic period further promoted the development of piano playing skills,

such as Brahms's piano works put forward a higher standard of skill and power, which also led to the development of piano playing skills were further updated and improved. And the Romantic period piano music in the innovation at the same time to a large extent also inherited the traditional way of playing and techniques, such as the use of different key strength, the use of pedals, expression, timbre changes, etc., these traditional techniques in the later generations of piano performance has been retained and developed, so that the piano performance to maintain a certain degree of continuity (Da Costa, 2012).

7.3. The Continuing Influence of Romantic Music

Piano music in the Romantic period emphasized the expression of emotion and individuality, and this paradigm influenced later forms of music creation and performance, for example, whether in classical or popular music, emotional expression has become a key factor in measuring the artistry of the work. The diversity and free creative spirit of Romantic piano music also brought more diverse styles and forms to later generations of music, and the influence of Romantic piano music on jazz, rock, and modern classical music can be seen today. In addition, Romantic piano music also had a profound impact on music education, such as emphasizing the personal expression and emotional experience of piano composition, encouraging players to explore their own artistic personality in performance, etc., this concept has directly influenced the subsequent piano teaching methods and the preparation of teaching materials (Scott, 2012).

8. CONCLUSION

In summary, through the analysis of the creative style and aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period, it can be seen that the composers of this period, generally pursuing individualized expression and emotional authenticity, through the rich and varied melodies, harmonies and rhythms to convey the inner world of emotions, to create musical works full of freedom, passion, or romantic atmosphere. Therefore, the creative style and aesthetic characteristics of piano music in the Romantic period are mainly embodied by personalized expression, rich and varied technical effects, the use of harmony and timbre, and a high degree of emotional tension and drama, etc., which make the piano music of the Romantic period become a classic artistic heritage, bringing us

colorful musical experiences and laying the foundation for the piano music creation of the later generations. The Romantic period has become a classic artistic legacy.

Funding

Humanities and Social Sciences Foundation of the Ministry of Education of China, Grant Number: 18YJC760035, Excellent Teacher Program of Hengyang Normal University of China.

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