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ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London

Royal College of Music Museum

Western Classical Music - KS3 & 4
Woodwind & Brass Pack

Expanding the orchestra

Romantic music (c1810 – 1900) is all about emotion, passion and drama.

Artists, poets and composers were trying to portray feelings like love, hate, loss, betrayal and joy, and music was often used to evoke stories.

Romantic composers were a lot less bothered about following rules. They played around with tonality, and tempo, using rubato – slowing down and speeding up - to make the music sound more expressive.

The orchestra grew to be much larger in the romantic period. Wind, brass and percussion sections got bigger and louder. All of these sections made a really loud sound, so the string sections had to grow too just to match the volume.



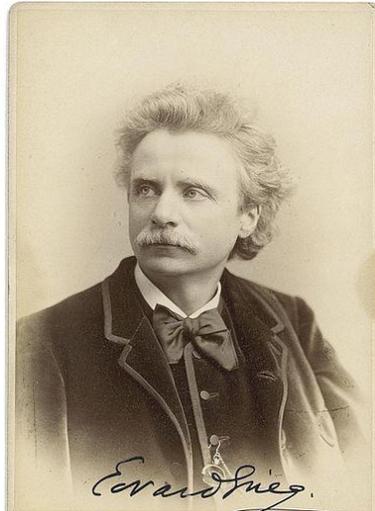
Ludwig van Beethoven is a composer that bridges the gap between the classical and romantic periods. He is most famous for his 9 symphonies and writing a lot of music for the piano.

Why did woodwind and brass instruments change?

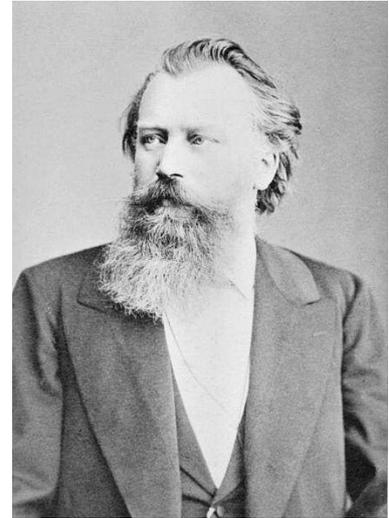
Romantic composers like Tchaikovsky, Grieg and Brahms wanted to add more notes to their chords to form extended chords and use dissonance to make their music more expressive.



Tchaikovsky



Grieg



Brahms

On the left are some musical instruments from the Royal College of Music Museum, and on the right are modern woodwind and brass instruments you would see in an orchestra today.

Can you see the difference the early and modern versions of these instruments?



Musical instrument makers began to make more valves and keys for these instruments. Valves and keys helped these instruments play more **chromatic** notes.