



**Main
Composers**

Romantic Period
c.1830 – 1910
Stylistic Hall Marks
Features to look out for to help identify the period in the ABRSM Grade 6 aural test

Features

More than Baroque, occasionally cresc. & dim. but more often sudden alternations of loud & soft

Melody: at the heart of Romantic music; longer, slower, more expansive than before

Ornaments: rare around a single note – but trills still common

Dynamics: much more use of crescendo & diminuendo. Sudden lurches from a whispering pianissimo to a thundering fortissimo (or vice-versa) also common!

Texture: normally homophonic, piano typically has arching melodic line supported by a wide-ranging arpeggio figuration in the left hand. Plenty of big chordal passages & dramatic flourishes.

Pedal: sustaining pedal used a lot

Full piano keyboard range

Richer harmony, plenty of chromatic