

Concise History of Western Music, 4e: Chapter 19 Opera and Music Drama in the Nineteenth Century

Title	Description
Music drama	A nineteenth-century genre created by Richard Wagner in which drama and music become organically connected to express a kind of absolute oneness.
Gesamtkunstwerk	(German, "total artwork" or "collective artwork") Term coined by Richard Wagner for a dramatic work in which poetry, scenic design, staging, action, and music all work together toward one artistic expression.
Leitmotiv	(German, "leading motive") In an opera or music drama, a motive, theme, or musical idea, which returns in original or altered form, associated with a person, thing, mood, or idea.
Lyric opera	Romantic opera that lies somewhere between light opéra comique and grand opera.
Opéra bouffe	A Romantic operatic genre in France that emphasized the smart, witty, and satirical elements of opéra comique.
Operetta	A kind of nineteenth-century light opera with spoken dialogue, originating in opéra bouffe.
Nationalism	(1) In politics and culture, an attempt to unify or represent a particular group of people by creating a national identity through characteristics such as common language, shared culture, historical traditions, and national institutions and rituals. (2) A nineteenth- and twentieth-century trend in music in which composers were eager to embrace elements of their music that claimed a national identity.
Exoticism	A nineteenth-century trend in which composers wrote music that evoked feelings and settings of distant lands or foreign cultures.
Bel canto	(Italian, "beautiful singing") An elegant Italian vocal style of the early nineteenth century marked by lyrical, embellished, and florid melodies that show off the beauty, agility, and fluency of the singer's voice.
Cantabile	(Italian, "songlike") (1) Songful, lyrical, in a songlike style. (2) In the operatic scene structure developed by Gioachino Rossini in the early-nineteenth century, the first section of an aria or ensemble, somewhat slow and expressing a relatively calm mood.
Cabaletta	In the operatic scene structure developed by Gioachino Rossini in the early-nineteenth century, the last part of an aria or ensemble, which was lively and brilliant and expressed active feelings, such as joy or despair.
Tempo di mezzo	(Italian, "middle movement") In the operatic scene structure developed by Gioachino Rossini in the early-nineteenth century, the middle section of an aria or ensemble, usually an interruption or a transition, that falls between the cantabile and the cabaletta.

Reminiscence motive	In an opera, a motive, theme, or melody that recurs in a later scene in order to recall the events and feelings with which it was first associated.
Grand opera	A serious form of opera, popular during the Romantic era, that was sung throughout and included ballets, choruses and spectacular staging.
Opéra comique	(French, "comic opera") In nineteenth-century France, opera with spoken dialogue, whether comic or tragic.
Melodrama	A genre of musical theater that combined spoken dialogue with background music.