



Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Schubert's works

- ▶ Unlike Beethoven, Schubert was unable to make a living selling his compositions, publishing only a few of his works (mostly songs) before his death at the age of 31
- ▶ Schubert's works include:
 - ▶ over 600 art songs (*Lieder*)
 - ▶ 8 symphonies (one unfinished) and several overtures
 - ▶ chamber works (including an octet, two quintets, and 15 string quartets)
 - ▶ 15 piano sonatas and many character pieces for piano
 - ▶ 6 masses and much choral music and church music
- ▶ Schubert's fame rests on the quality of his music rather than on its historical significance (since only a few people in Schubert's day ever got a chance to hear it)

Schubert's style

- ▶ Schubert's music is remarkable for its great lyricism and its emphasis on harmonic color
- ▶ He often experiments with unusual key relationships, showing a preference for third-related keys
- ▶ He frequently uses mode mixture effects
- ▶ His orchestral and chamber works are also known for their tremendous *length*, continuing to expand the forms that were used by Haydn and Mozart

Schubert's songs

- ▶ Schubert established the German Lied (art song) as a major genre, inspiring many imitators
 - ▶ These songs are written in a variety of forms and styles, including simple strophic songs, dramatic ballads, ternary form songs, and complex through-composed songs
- ▶ He wrote two *song cycles*, which are large collections of songs with texts written by a single poet that tell a longer story or that deal with a common theme
 - ▶ *Die schöne Müllerin* (1823) tells the tragic story of a young man who falls in love with a miller's daughter
 - ▶ *Die Winterreise* (1824) tells of a long, weary and tortuous winter journey undertaken by a lovesick, wandering poet