Johannes Brahms
1833-1897

Life
- Born in Hamburg, Germany
- Father was a bassist w/ Hamburg orchestra
- Age 7: learned piano
- Age 13: began studying composition
- Age 14: first public performance
- Age 15: began to play in local taverns and "dance halls"
- Age 20: concert tour with Eduard Remenyi
  - Hungarian “Gypsy” Music
- Meets Joseph Joachim
  - Violin Virtuoso

Life-continued
- Introduction to Schumann’s
  - Neue Bahnen (New Paths)
- Hamburg (1859)
  - Women’s chorus
- Vienna (1862)
  - Conducting
- Ein Deutsches Requiem (1869)
  - Established a career
- Continued to Compose and Concertize
- Died of Cancer in 1897
Music of Brahms

Orchestral works
- 2 piano concertos
- 2 Serenades
- Academic Festival Overture
- Tragic Overture
- Variations on a theme by Haydn (1873)
- 4 Symphonies (1876)
- Violin Concerto (1877)

Vocal/Choral works
- Ein Deutches Requiem
- Alt-Rhapsodie
- 300 Lieder

Piano works (he and Clara)
- Hungarian Dances
- Liebeslieder Waltzes
- 3 Sonatas
- 3 “Rhapsodies”
- Variations (Handel, Paganini)
- 11 Organ Chorale Preludes

Vocal/Choral works

Chamber Music

Chamber Works
- 2 String Sextets
- 2 String Quintets
- 1 Clarinet Quintet
- 24 String Quartets
  - 3 survive
- 3 Piano Trios
  - Horn/Clarinet

- 2 Cello Sonatas
  - Robert Hausmann
- 3 Violin Sonatas
  - Joseph Joachim
- 2 Clarinet Sonatas
  - Richard Mühlfeld

- 3 Piano Trios
  - Horn/Clarinet

Style

Romantic Tendencies

Classical Style
- High Regard for Form

Exquisite Craftsman
- Bach-like
- Rhythmic Interest

Low Orchestration...

No Program Music

Successor to Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Haydn, Mozart
Important Things to Remember

**Life**
- Educated by family and St. Florian (monastery)
  - Violin, Organ, theory (whole life)
  - Teacher Training
- School Teacher
- Organist at Linz Cathedral
- Wagner Influence
- Vienna Conservatory Professorship

**Style**
- Very Conservative
- Deeply Religious
- Incredibly Insecure (Nervous Breakdown, 1867)
  - International Bruckner society (1927)
  - "Preferred" Versions

**Music**
- Piano/Organ Music
  - Preludes and Fugues
    - Most Improvised
- Vocal Music
  - 29 A Cappella Choral Works
  - 40 Other Sacred Works
  - 6 Masses
  - Requiem
- Orchestral
  - 10 Symphonies
    - Most Important
  - Die Nüffe (0)
  - 89 Incomplete
  - Constant Revision
- Traits
  - Traditional Forms and Structure
  - Tremolo
  - Contrapuntal Treatments
  - Thematic Transformation
- First to extend Symphony beyond Beethoven