



The Piano Concerto (III)

A LIFE Institute Course

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<http://LIFECourses.ca/Piano>

Plan for today ...

- Making a Grand Piano
- Beethoven
 - Biographical information
 - 4th Piano Concerto (Barenboim)
- Anton Reicha
- Schubert
 - Biographical information
 - Early concerto, Arpeggionie Sonata
- BonBon

How It's Made



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS7OnxVW46k>

Beethoven: 1770-1827

- Father exploited his talented son
- 1792: from Bonn to Vienna
- Composer, pianist, improviser
- 1798: Hearing loss begins
- 1802-12: Middle period
 - Serious compositions, including piano concertos
- 1812-27: Late period (deaf)
 - Towering compositions



Short Biography



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kSEi9QL0Qc>

Exploring on your own ...



“The first truly comprehensive feature length cinema documentary ever made about Beethoven. With over 60 live performances.”

Director: Phil Grabsky

Stars: Emanuel Ax, Jonathan Biss, Riccardo Chailly

Beethoven vs. Steibelt



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT8cBX893ic>



Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

- A work that begins - unprecedentedly - with the solo instrument alone, playing softly and gently ("dolce") and expounding the first subject over five whole bars. It received its first performance at a concert in March 1807. The composer was the soloist. A review of the concerto described the work as "a new pianoforte concerto of tremendous difficulty that Beethoven performed astonishingly well at the fastest possible speeds".

YouTube

Beethoven (Barenboim)



Daniel Barenboim, soloist and conductor
Staatskapelle Berlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqyusM6sogM>

Anton Reicha 1770-1836

- Born in Prague, uncle musician
- Met Beethoven in Bonn (1785)
- 1789 escaped French occupation
- 1781 move to Vienna, renewed friendship with Beethoven
- 1806 moved to Paris where he lived the rest of his life



Ivan Ilić: Reicha Rediscovered



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0hN3aZXd68>

Antonin Rejcha (French)



The image shows a CD cover on the left and a video player interface on the right. The CD cover features the text: *ANTONÍN & JOSEF REJCHA*, *PIANO & VIOLA CONCERTOS*, *Radoslav Kvapil Karel Špelina*, and *Brno State Philharmonic Orchestra / Petr Vronský*. Below the text is a photograph of a large, ornate white building with a central tower, surrounded by green trees and a lawn. The video player interface on the right has a dark background with white text: **Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in E flat major - Allegro**, **Antonín Rejcha**, **Filharmonie Brno/Petr Vronský**, **Radoslav Kvapil**, and **Rejcha Antonín and Josef: Piano and Viola Concertos**.

First Movement – Allegro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co5BPFd1jWg>

Franz Schubert 1797-1828

- Father was strict school teacher who did not approve of music
- 1814 started teaching
- 1816 full time music
- Vienna: supported by dissolute friends and other musicians
- Prolific composer
- March 1828 only public concert
- November 1828 - death



Franz Schubert



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAds3haQIk>



Dark Biography

The Double Life of Franz Schubert

Dramatic view of his life
Dissolute life, great music
Director : Peter Webber

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp5tEZUoswM>

Piano Compositions

- Piano (plus a few instruments) – growing market for such published music
 - Doesn't need a concert hall
- Piano Concerto – very limited market for published piano concertos
- Many piano concertos designed to feature the pianist/composer (ticket sales, patrons)
- Schubert wasn't a star pianist!

Great music (for piano)



Interesting instrument, great writing for piano

Great Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do9UgdfwM5Q>

Early Piano Concerto



Adagio and Rondo Concertante for Piano, Violin and Strings in F Major, D487
Jenny Zaharieva - piano Peter Dimitrov – conductor
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqYGQxuN0NU>



Next Week ...

- Robert Schumann
- Clara (Wieck) Schuman
 - Johannes Brahms
 - Felix Mendelssohn
- ... and their worlds

BonBon



Beethoven - Mr Bean (the...piano player)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KdUL62_tFc