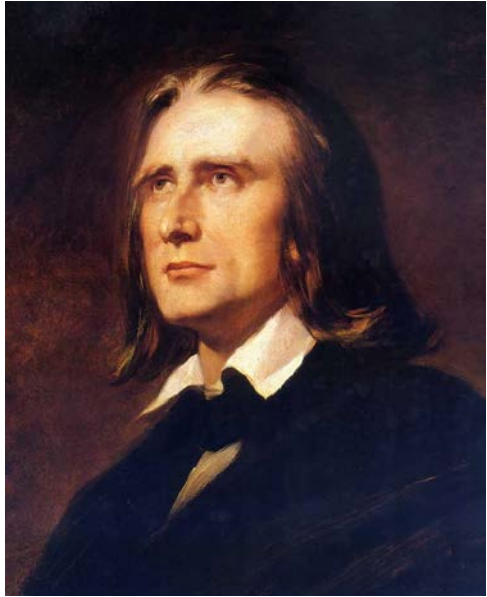


# Franz Liszt

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Franz Liszt was born on October 22, 1811. He was a Hungarian composer, virtuoso pianist, conductor, music teacher, arranger, and organist of the Romantic era. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest pianists of all time. He was also a writer, philanthropist, Hungarian nationalist and Franciscan tertiary. He was raised in a German culture and never learned to speak much Hungarian. He was famous for his hawk-nose.

He was a friend, musical promoter and benefactor to many composers of his time, including Frédéric Chopin, Charles-Valentin Alkan, Richard Wagner, Hector Berlioz, Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Camille Saint-Saëns, Edvard Grieg, Ole Bull, Joachim Raff, Mikhail Glinka, and Alexander Borodin.

Along with Chopin, Liszt pioneered creating some of the most devilishly difficult piano works, by making the bass part every bit as complex as the treble part.

In 1833, Liszt began his relationship with the Countess Marie d'Agoult. In 1835, the countess left her husband and family to join Liszt in Geneva. They had three children together, but only the daughter Cosima really survived. See the *Impromptu* trailer for a hint of the world Liszt walked in. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6upEXpPRKY>.

Liszt was close friends with Richard Wagner, but that relationship hit a lower point when Wagner married Cosima. Cosima was considerably more

anti-Semitic than Wagner. Before she died in 1930, she was an enthusiastic proponent of Adolf Hitler.

For more information, see *A Brief History of Franz Liszt* by Allysia.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRVvoFfif8E>



*Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe* was the serial that got me started in classical music. Up to this time, I was very autistic and uncultured. I was very excited to learn that the background music was *Les Preludes* by Liszt. There is also music by Franz Waxman, used in the movie *Bride of Frankenstein*. I'll get to Waxman in December.

My first record was *Les Preludes*. I wore out that record. The opening bars of *Les Preludes* appear in other works, such as Cesar Franck's symphony in D minor. *Les Preludes* was even used in at least one episode of *The Lone Ranger*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAP1948Sg3E>



Later, as I became more knowledgeable, I realized that *Trip to Mars* used an orchestrated version of Liszt's sonata in B minor, along with music by Franz Waxman. The sonata in B minor is a concert show piece.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2cAkdSQXrI>

Of course, I was greatly influenced by Flash Gordon, which shows in my story *Larra Conquers the Universe*.

<http://www.romanap.com/PDF/larra-conquers-universe.pdf>



Liszt wrote a lot of music, and a lot of music with diminished 5ths and 7ths. These diminished chords create music that is emotionally tense and dark. Action film scores carry on this tradition in modern settings. Liszt's Dante Symphony is full of diminished chords in the Inferno movement, but the work is seldom performed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7x-la2AbjE>

One of Liszt's most popular pieces is his Hungarian Rhapsody number 2. It has appeared in dozens of non-musical settings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNi-0kqpdE>