



# COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT

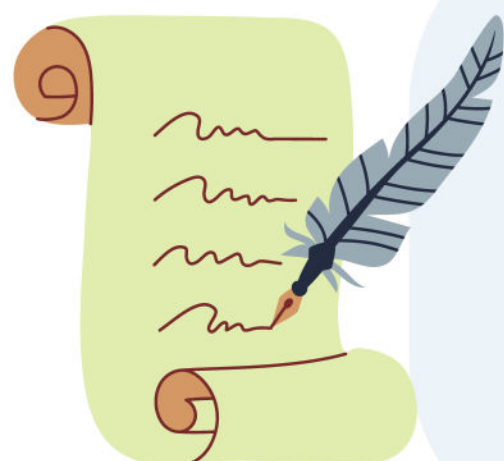


## FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

1810–1849  
Romantic

### The Poet of the Piano

Chopin was born in Poland and is often called the "Poet of the Piano" because of the beautiful, expressive music he wrote for the instrument. He started composing at just seven years old and became one of the greatest pianists and composers of all time. His music is full of emotion and elegance.



### A Piano Specialist

Unlike many composers, Chopin focused almost entirely on the piano. He also helped popularize genres like the prelude, ballade, and nocturne, adapting these forms specifically for the piano in new and innovative ways. One of Chopin's great innovations was his use of rubato. His compositions also pushed harmonic boundaries, using daring chord progressions and chromaticism.



### Inspired by His Homeland

Even though Chopin lived much of his life in France, his heart remained in Poland. Many of his compositions were inspired by Polish dances like the mazurka and polonaise. His music carries a deep sense of longing for his homeland, which gives it a personal and emotional touch.



### A Quiet Life

Chopin wasn't a fan of big performances—he preferred to play for small, private audiences. He was often sick throughout his life, and he spent much of his time teaching and composing. Though he passed away young at the age of 39, his piano music continues to inspire pianists around the world.

### Significant Works:

- Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2
- Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op. 53
- Prelude in D-flat Major, Op. 28, No. 15 (Raindrop Prelude)
- Etude in A-flat major, Op. 25, No. 1 (Aeolian Harp)