

French Music



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Small Facts

- Considered the center of European music and art
- France is the home of many legendary composers of classical music



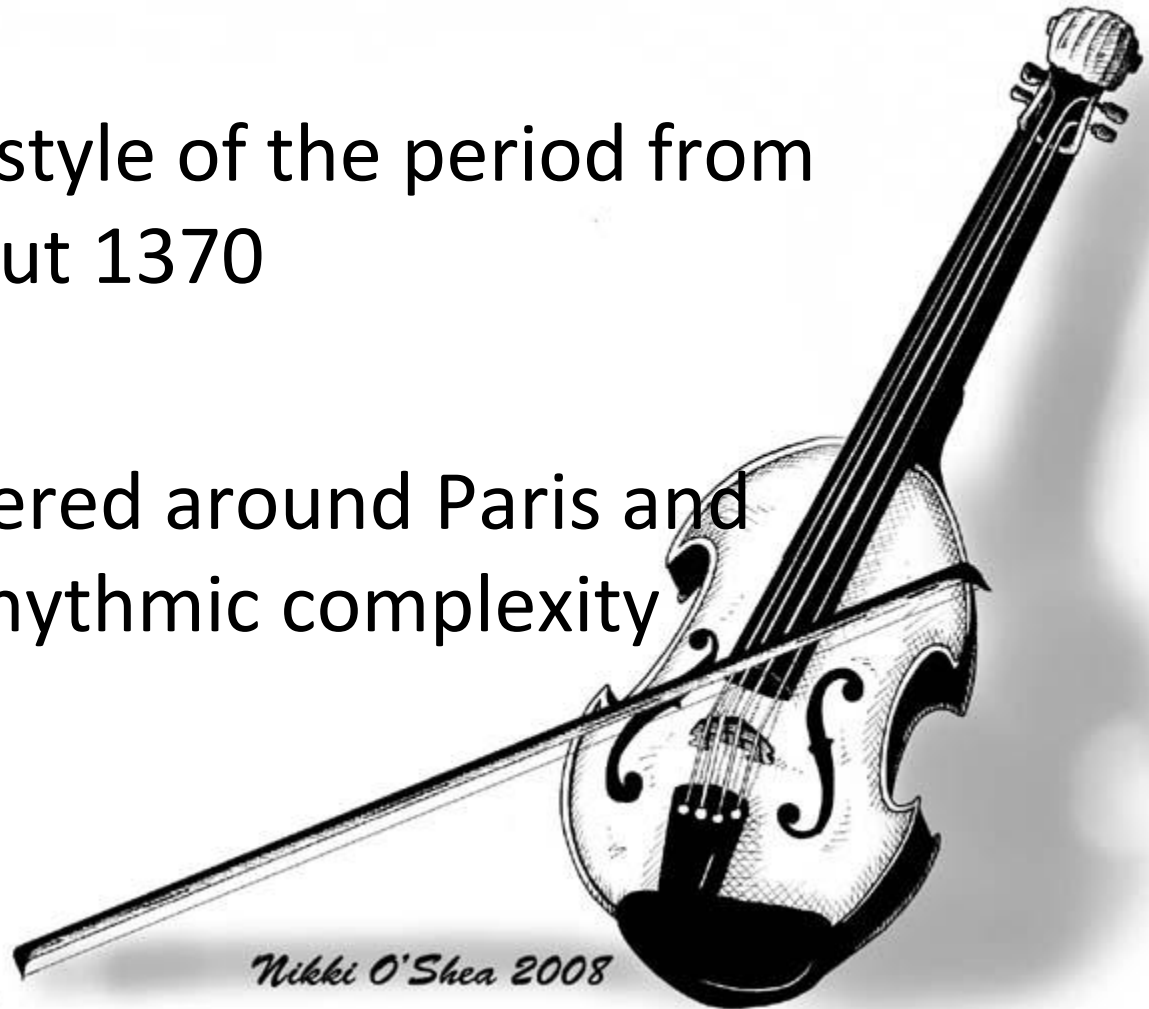
History

- French music dates back to the 10th century with organum (monophonic- single, unaccompanied melodic line)
- Notre Dame School (of Polyphony): group of composers working near Notre Dame Cathedral
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yi2MMtli_mY

- Middle Ages: songs of chivalry and courtly love were composed
- End of 12th century: a form of song called “motet” arose, which was accompanied by traveling musicians aka jongleurs
- 14th century: France produced two notable styles of music, Ars Nova and Ars Subtilior

Ars Nova, Ars Subtilior

- Polyphonic
- Ars Nova: musical style of the period from about 1310 to about 1370
- Ars Subtilior: Centered around Paris and characterized by rhythmic complexity



Operas

- *Akébar roi du Mogol*: First French opera in 1646
- Jean-Baptiste Lully: known best for composing ballets for Louis XIV and creating the French version of “opera seria”
- Georges Bizet: French composer who wrote *Carmen*
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlGTz0pSL_S8



19th Century



- Hector Berlioz: one of the major French composers of all time and most innovative of the Romantic era
- Claude Debussy & Maurice Ravel: huge impact on 20th century music - both in France and abroad

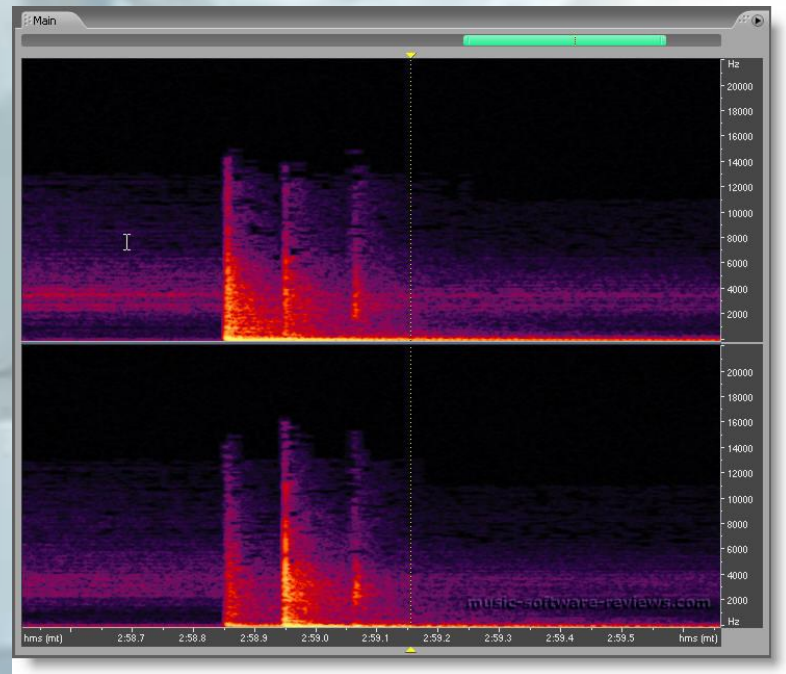
20th Century

- Neo-classical music/serialism
- Albert Roussel and Les Six:
especially influential
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9k0k-vGp6g&feature=related>



Spectral Music

- 1970s
- The most important French contribution to music
- Computer-assisted composition



Popular Music

- 1950-1960: “golden age” of Chanson française: typical style of French music
- Rock & Roll, which was inspired by the American and British
- 1980s: Hip Hop, was inspired by African-Americans
- 1990s-2000: Electronic music- very popular in France

Chanson française

- Yolande Christina Gigliotti
aka DALIDA

- “Bambino”

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRx5Zl070xQ>



Rock & Roll

- Elvis was a big inspiration of this style of music
- Françoise Hardy (Teen Idol)
- Johnny Hallyday
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwlaF6NYPj0&feature=related>



Hip Hop

- MC Solaar
- IAM
- “Qui Sème le Vent Récolte le Tempo”

• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4bPWcojrlQ>



Electric

- Very popular

- Daft Punk

- David Guetta

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH-0s0pRleg>



France Billboard Top 100



- #1 song for the week of April 26, 2010: