


Summary: The Turn of the 20th Century


Around the turn of the 20th century, there were many different musical styles. Some composers felt the extreme emotionalism of Romantic music needed to be limited.

- Most composers rejected Romantic tradition.
- Western musicians were introduced to art and music from different cultures.
- Many composers wrote in different, unique styles within their careers.
- Trends in the visual arts influenced music. Jazz (with its complex rhythms) and technology (especially music recordings) impacted the arts.
- Forms and instruments of the past were still used in the 20th century, but often in very different ways.


Listening Guide

 **CD Track 16:** Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun by Claude Debussy (*Impressionism*)


A flute playing a dreamy solo opens, followed by the harp and horns—unique colors for a concert hall in 1894.

 **CD Track 17:** “Valse de Chopin” from Pierrot Lunaire by Arnold Schoenberg (*sprechstimme*)

The reciter’s use of *sprechstimme* and the lack of traditional chords gives a surreal atmosphere.

 **CD Track 18:** Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin (*jazz-influenced concerto*)

The opening of this concerto for piano and orchestra begins with a “wailing” clarinet.

 **CD Track 19:** “Russian Dance” from Petrushka by Igor Stravinsky (*Primitivism*)

A full orchestra opens with the theme. Woodwinds, strings, and piano are featured in turn, along with exciting percussive effects.

Word Scramble

Unscramble each composer’s name to match his musical style:

1. S U B S Y D E

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(Impressionism)

2. R E N S H E B

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(Expressionism)

3. G I R

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(Jazz Influence)

4. V E K P R

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(Neoclassicism)

5. K R I S T V A S N

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(Primitivism)

modern grand piano



SAMPLE