

Composer Profile: Felix Mendelssohn

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Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was born on the 3 February 1809 in Hamburg.

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Mendelssohn died on the 4 November 1847 in Leipzig.

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Mendelssohn was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor.



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FACTS



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Mendelssohn is noted for reviving the works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

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Mendelssohn founded the Leipzig Conservatoire.

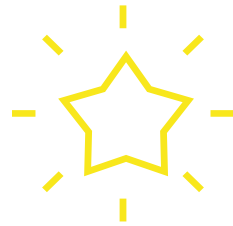
Notable pieces:

- Overture to a A Midsummer Night's Dream (1826)
- Wedding March (1842) from the incidental suite to A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Italian Symphony (1833, rev. 1834)
- Scottish Symphony (1829–42)
- Elijah (1845–46) oratorio
- The Hebrides (1830, rev. 1832) concert overture
- Violin Concerto (1838–44)



Felix Mendelssohn

Mendelssohn was both a pioneer of the Romantic era and a champion of early music. He was heavily influenced by Bach's music.



Mendelssohn's music was original but less radical than that of his contemporaries, such as Wagner.

Schumann described Mendelssohn as 'the Mozart of the 19th century'.

Mendelssohn was a child prodigy and gave his first public performance aged 9



According to Berlioz, a piano at the Paris Conservatoire was so used to playing Mendelssohn's first piano concerto that it played the music by itself.



Mendelssohn's sister Fanny was also a talented composer and pianist

Mendelssohn's father changed the family's surname after renouncing their Jewish background but 'Mendelssohn' stuck.

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