

MSO

ONLINE CLASSROOM

ENGLISH 1: POETRY IN SCHUMANN'S TIME

SPOTLIGHT ON ROMANTIC POETS

Several of the Romantic poets are among the most read and studied poets today. They challenged conventional ideas about the way poetry was to be composed and read.

YOUR TASK

1. Pick one of the following Romantic poets
 - a. William Wordsworth
 - b. John Keats
 - c. William Blake
 - d. Lord Byron
 - e. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
2. Using reputable sources, compile a short biography of your chosen poet
3. Pick one poem from your poet's repertoire and answer the following questions with close reference to the poem.
 - a. What is the mood of the poem?
 - b. Identify the central themes and ideas in the poem.
 - c. Identify three poetic techniques used by the poet. How do they contribute to the ideas explored in the poem?

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Victorian 7–10:
 - English — *Reading and viewing*
 - English — *Writing*
- VCE English and EAL:
 - Unit 1 Outcome — *Reading and creating texts*
- VCE Literature:
 - Unit 1 Outcome — *Reading practices OR Ideas and concerns in texts*

KEY THEMES OF ROMANTIC POETRY

The poets of the Romantic rejected the Classical emphasis on reason and logic, choosing instead to embrace feeling and uncertainty. They were driven by a desire to see democratic political change, an appreciation of nature, a respect for genius and a desire to transcend the ordinary.

YOUR TASK

1. Pick one of the key Romantic poetic themes
 - a. Democracy
 - b. Nature
 - c. Genius and inspiration
 - d. The sublime
2. Using information gathered from reputable sources, write a paragraph explaining what Romantic poets say about this theme
3. Write a short free-verse poem of your own exploring your chosen theme in a modern context

KEY FEATURES OF ROMANTIC POETRY

The Romantic Era poets favoured poetic forms that allowed them to explore the feelings and sentiments associated with their themes.

YOUR TASK

1. Pick one of the favoured forms of the Romantic period
 - a. Ode
 - b. Lyrical ballad
 - c. Sonnet
2. Using information gathered from reputable sources, write a paragraph explaining the key features of this form
3. Write a short poem in your chosen form, exploring another of the Romantic Era themes

LINKS TO SCHUMANN'S WORK

Schumann was raised on the work of the Romantic poets, and continued to read them throughout his life. Numerous scholars have noted the influence of Romantic Era poets on Schumann's musical sensibilities.

YOUR TASK

1. Write a paragraph explaining the connections you can see between the themes and features of Romantic poetry and Schumann's music.

BIOS



NICHOLAS BOCHNER

After training in Adelaide and London, Nicholas spent 3 years as Artist-in-Residence at the University of Queensland as part of the ensemble *Perihelion*, forging a strong reputation as an exponent of contemporary music. He joined the MSO as Assistant Principal Cello in 1998. Since then he has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician and recitalist. He has also taught cello and improvisation at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

Nicholas has always had a strong commitment to music education and community engagement. In 2010 he was awarded the Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to study the LSO's iconic Discovery program and the use of improvisation in training classical musicians at the Guildhall School of Music.

In 2016, Nicholas' considerable experience as an orchestral musician and his passion for communication led him to undertake a fellowship at ANAM where

he developed, conducted and presented educational concerts for primary school children. During the fellowship he was mentored by Paul Rissmann, Graham Abbott and the legendary Richard Gill AO. Since then he has presented educational concerts for children and adults for MSO, ANAM and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

In 2020 he was named the MSO's Cybec Assistant Conductor for Learning and Engagement. He is also the conductor of the Melbourne University Biomedical Students' Orchestra. In support of his work as an education presenter, Nicholas has been studying conducting with Benjamin Northey and won a coveted place at the TSO's 2019 Australian Conducting Academy.



CRAIG HILL

Craig Hill has been a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Clarinet section since 1991. Craig grew up in Wagga Wagga and completed his formative studies with Phillip Miechel at the Victorian College of the Arts where he was a recipient of a German Academic Exchange scholarship that saw him complete further studies with Dieter Kloecker at the Freiburg Musikhochschule in 1991. As a specialist on period clarinets Craig has appeared at festivals throughout Australia, the United States and Denmark in repertoire spanning from Vivaldi to Brahms.

He has regularly performed as guest principal clarinet with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Antipodes and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra with whom he has frequently appeared as soloist.

In April 2009 he directed a mini-festival of period instrument chamber music, Concertino Copenhagen, which brought together musicians from Australia and Europe for concerts at the newly opened Melbourne Recital Centre.



LEIGH HARROLD

Leigh Harrold enjoys a reputation as a "musician of rare talent and intelligence", and is one of Australia's busiest and most sought-after pianists.

Leigh has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Africa and Australia as both soloist and chamber musician, including concerts at Australia House in London, the Royal Academy of Music, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Harare International Festival of Arts, and concerto engagements with many Australian orchestras. His international reputation as an associate artist has led to collaborations with some of the world's greatest musicians, including Michael Cox, Denis Bouriakov, and Daniel Gaede. Leigh is a founding member of the Helpmann Award-nominated Syzygy Ensemble which has gone on to become one of Australia's most critically lauded and active contemporary music ensembles. Additionally, Leigh has recorded and released CDs for Sony, ABC Classics, and Move Records.

An enthusiastic and committed teacher, speaker, and writer, Leigh is regularly invited to tutor and lecture at many institutions, adjudicate competitions, and has given several masterclasses around Australia, Africa, the USA and the UK. He currently holds positions on the Faculties of ANAM and the University of Melbourne, and is pianist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

RESOURCES & CONTENT



JAMES LE FEVRE

For the past 15 years, James Le Fevre has been sharing his passion and enthusiasm for music education with students and colleagues from around the country across the Independent, Catholic and State School systems. He was recently appointed as Head of Music at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School having served as The Arts Learning Area Leader and also Director of Bands at Our Lady of Sion College for 7 years prior. As an active member of the music community, James performs regularly across a wide range of genres and is forging a reputation as an engaging presenter and conductor. He proudly serves as the Immediate Past National President and as a Vice President of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association.

James holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours from the Australian National University majoring in Jazz Saxophone, and education qualifications from Monash University. In 2016, James completed studies in Education Leadership on scholarship to the Expert and Leading Teachers Colloquium through the National Excellence in School Leadership Initiative.



ERNEST PRICE

Ernest Price is the Education Officer at Victorian Association for the Teaching of English, after ten years teaching and leading English departments. Ernest has written study guides for a range of texts and has travelled the state presenting for both students and staff.

Thank you to our content and resource consultants:

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