

Johannes Brahms (May 7, 1833 – April 3, 1897)

Johannes Brahms was a major German composer and pianist of the Romantic period, renowned for his contributions to symphonic, chamber, and choral music. Born in Hamburg, Germany, Brahms was the son of a musician and showed early musical talent. He studied composition and piano, and his early career included performing as a pianist in various European cities.

Brahms is celebrated for his rich harmonic language and structural mastery. His notable works include four symphonies, such as Symphony No. 1 in C minor (1876), which has been described as "Beethovenian" in its grandeur. His *A German Requiem* (1868) is a significant choral work that reflects his deep religious and philosophical concerns.

Other key compositions by Brahms include his chamber music, such as the *Piano Quintet in F minor* (1864) and his Hungarian Dances (1869), which incorporate folk elements from Eastern Europe. Brahms was also known for his substantial output of lieder (songs) and piano music, including the *Intermezzi* and *Rhapsodies*.

Throughout his life, Brahms was regarded as a traditionalist and a protector of classical forms, often seen as the heir to the legacy of Beethoven. His music remains highly influential and is celebrated for its emotional depth and structural innovation.