

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) was a German composer, pianist, and conductor, recognized as one of the most important figures of the early Romantic era. Born into a distinguished family, Mendelssohn showed prodigious talent from a young age, composing his first symphony at 15. His music is known for its lyrical beauty, technical brilliance, and classical structure, blending the elegance of the Classical tradition with the emotional depth of the Romantic movement.

Mendelssohn's best-known works include his *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the *Violin Concerto in E minor*, and the *Italian Symphony*. As a conductor, he revitalized interest in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, particularly through his famous 1829 performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. Despite his early death at 38, Mendelssohn left a lasting impact on the music world, influencing composers such as Brahms and influencing the development of Romantic music.