



Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

Baby Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg Germany to a wealthy family that surrounded him with an artistic and intellectual atmosphere which encouraged him to develop his talents. Felix gave his first piano recital when he was nine. He was also a very good composer and by the age of 12 he had written 5 symphonies, 2 small operas and several piano pieces and songs.

Mendelssohn truly loved music but his father was not convinced that a music career was correct for Felix. But by the age of 16, Felix's music was being played in many countries in Europe; his father realized he could not stop the composing talents of his son.

Felix soon left Berlin where he had grown up and went on a Grand Tour: he visited England and Italy, and always wrote music that reflected the country he was visiting. He wrote for large orchestras, small ensembles choruses and concertos featuring solo violinists and pianists.

Mendelssohn's style of composing, where the music describes a feeling or paints a picture for the listener, is called Romanticism. Mendelssohn's is a great example of the 19th century **Romantic style**: his music is elegant, melodious and also very poetic and lyrical.