

ANSWERS

Impressionism in Music

Gena Mayo ~ Music in Our Homeschool

Use these words to fill in the blanks from what you learned in the workshop:

parallel motion, unresolved harmonies, Claude Monet, Clair du Lune, Arabesque No. 1, Maurice Ravel, 1890-1930, steady beat, Claude Debussy, whole tone scale, rubato.

After Claude Monet painted "Impression, Sunrise," the new Impressionistic style eventually influenced composers such as Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. This new musical era flourished from 1890-1930.

Impressionistic composers wanted their music to create an "impression" on the hearer and used techniques such as a free flow tempo known as rubato, rather than keeping a steady beat as you would have heard in most music of the time.

They also used some exotic scales such as the whole tone scale, pentatonic scale, and archaic church modes. Other features of Impressionistic music include parallel motion and unresolved harmonies, which sound typical to us today but were very new at the time.

A couple of beautiful Impressionistic pieces include Debussy's piano pieces Clair du Lune and Arabesque No. 1.

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