



ROMANTIC & 20<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURY MUSIC  
NEED TO KNOW

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*Higher Music*

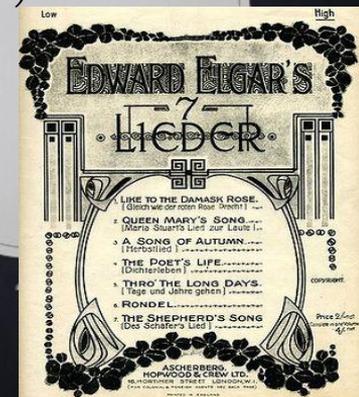
# LIED

## ROMANTIC MUSIC 1810-1900



- ❖ This term (*the German word for song*) refers to songs for solo voice, accompanied by piano. This is a style which emerged during the Romantic Period and was pioneered by **Schubert** who wrote over 600 songs in this style. Other composers include Beethoven, Schumann and Liszt.
- ❖ The text is in German, and they can be either strophic (verse/chorus structure) or through-composed (no sections of the song are repeated).

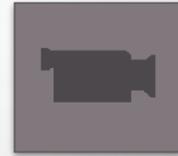
An interesting feature of Lieder is that the voice and piano are equally important – both the voice and the piano having opportunities to be showcased and where the writing for each is intertwined.



# OBBLIGATO

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❖ A prominent solo instrument part in a piece of vocal music.



# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MUSIC 1900-PRESENT

## IMPRESSIONIST



❖ A number of Arts movements develop as a response to what had come before.

Impressionism was no different, being developed as reaction to the chromatic nature of music from the Romantic period.

❖ Music written in the impressionist style mirrors the style of painting by Artists such as Claude Monet, where edges between objects are often blurred. This effect was created in the music through the use of **cross rhythms**, often tying notes across a barline, and on piano, particular use was made of the sustain pedal.

Composers also created a dreamlike sound using the **whole tone scale**.

## CROSS RHYTHM

❖ Term used to describe the effect of two notes being played against three (eg in piano music it might be groups of two quavers in the right hand and groups of triplets in the left).

❖ **THREE AGAINST TWO**



# TIME CHANGES

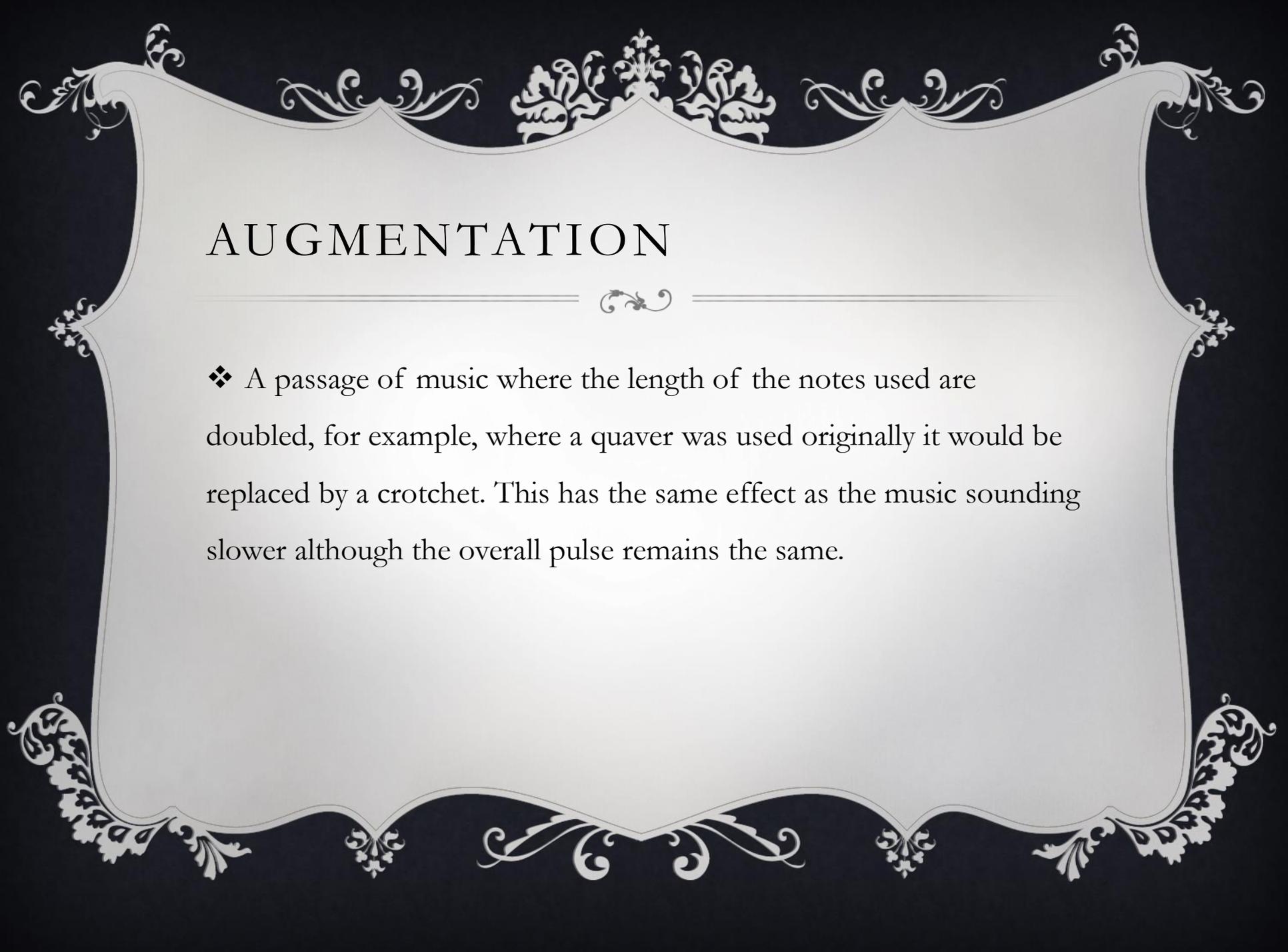
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❖ Composers, particularly in the 20th century often make use of changing time signatures frequently in a piece of music. Composers such as Stravinsky use this technique to great effect.



## IRREGULAR TIME SIGNATURES

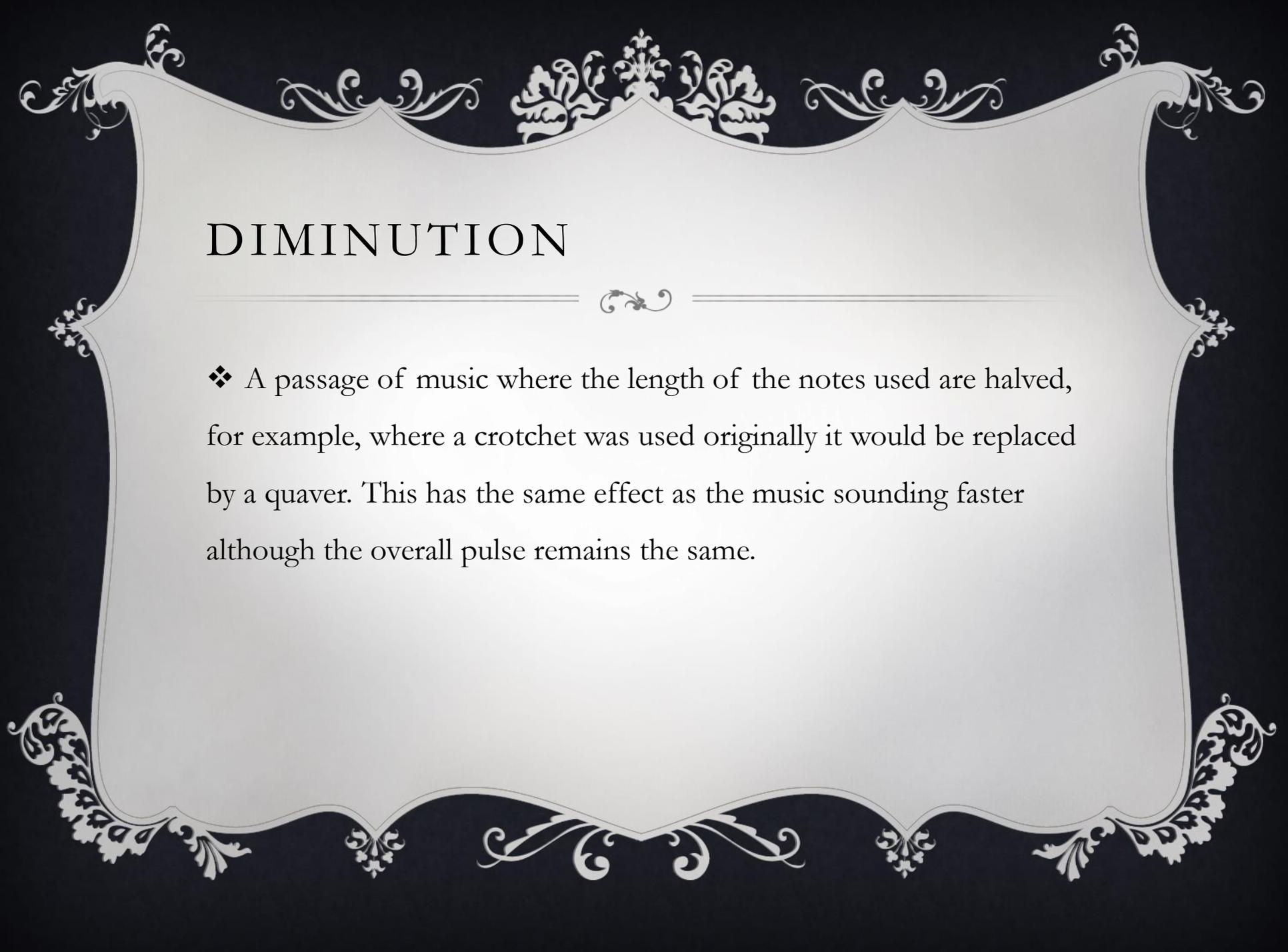
- ❖ In simple time music is easily grouped into two quavers whilst in compound time the groupings are of three quavers.
- ❖ So in 4/4, the music naturally groups into 4 crotchet beats, whilst in 6/8, the grouping would tend to fall into a pattern of 2 groups of 3 quavers (or 2 dotted crotchets).
- ❖ Irregular time signatures occur when the music does not naturally fall into equal groupings.
- ❖ 5/4 where there are 5 crotchet beats in each bar is perhaps the most common of irregular time signatures. It is not possible to divide the grouping of notes equally within the bar. This results in an irregular grouping pattern of 3 and 2, or 2 and 3.



# AUGMENTATION

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❖ A passage of music where the length of the notes used are doubled, for example, where a quaver was used originally it would be replaced by a crotchet. This has the same effect as the music sounding slower although the overall pulse remains the same.



# DIMINUTION

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❖ A passage of music where the length of the notes used are halved, for example, where a crotchet was used originally it would be replaced by a quaver. This has the same effect as the music sounding faster although the overall pulse remains the same.

# TREMOLANDO

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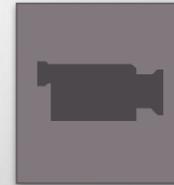
- ❖ Term for the rapid up-and-down movement of a bow on a stringed instrument creating an agitated, restless effect.
- ❖ Tremolando also describes rapid alternation of two different notes at least a 3rd apart played on piano, strings, wind, brass and tuned percussion instruments.



# HARMONICS

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❖ Harmonics can be produced by a number of instruments. By lightly touching the string of a bowed stringed instrument at certain points for example, a high eerie sound is produced. On a guitar or harp these have a bell-like quality.



# MUSIQUE CONCRETE

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❖ Natural sounds which are recorded onto magnetic tape and then transformed using simple editing techniques such as cutting and re-assembling, playing backwards, slowing down and speeding up.



# JAZZ FUNK

❖ Jazz funk is a sub-genre of jazz music. Many of the key features found in jazz music are evident here too – a strong rhythmic ‘groove,’ above which instrumentalists improvise solo passages. The most significant difference from jazz are the instruments within the ensemble. These will typically consist of drum kit, bass guitar, rhythm guitar and synthesiser, in short then, it is the merging of traditional Jazz characteristics with electronic instruments requiring electronic amplification. It is a style that emerged during the 1970s with the ensemble combinations and driving groove patterns being similar with disco.



# SOUL MUSIC

- ❖ Soul music developed in the southern states of America and grew in popularity throughout the 1960s. It was a combination of gospel, blues and country music, and its gritty sound reflected what was happening socially in America at that time.
- ❖ One of the main centres for soul music was in Memphis Tennessee, home of STAX records, where musicians from different ethnic backgrounds joined together to write and record music. At this time, racial segregation was still very much part and parcel of everyday life for Americans and was certainly a barrier to creative collaborations such as writing and recording music. Artists recording with STAX included, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, Isaac Hayes, Booker T & the MG's, Staple Singers to name a few.
- ❖ In Detroit, Michigan, a style of soul music was also developing. Although it had the same heartfelt emotion and passion in the music, the sound was smoother than their counterparts at STAX. Detroit was the home of Motown Records. Artists who recorded with Motown included the Jackson 5, Diana Ross, Martha Reeves, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson.

