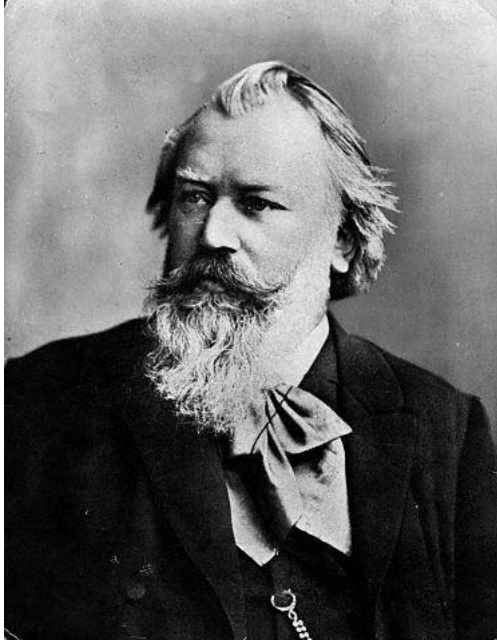





# Composer Portfolios

# BRAHMS



Name	Johannes Brahms
Nationality	German
Born-Died	1833-1897
Quote	<p><i>'The powers from which all truly great composers like Mozart, Schubert, Bach and Beethoven drew their inspirations is the same power that enabled Jesus to do his miracles.'</i></p>  <p><i>'If there is anyone here whom I have not insulted, I beg his pardon.'</i></p>

## Interesting Stories

### The Most Famous Composer

As a celebrated composer, Brahms conducted his two piano concertos in Berlin and attended a dinner given for him. His host proposed a toast to "the most famous composer." Brahms, seeing what was coming, interposed hastily, "Quite right: here's to Mozart!" and clinked glasses all around.

### Wine Connoisseur

A great wine connoisseur invited Brahms to dinner and in his honor brought out some of his choicest bottles. "This is the Brahms of my cellar," he announced to the company as wine from a venerable bottle was poured into the composer's glass. Brahms scrutinized the wine closely, inhaled its bouquet, took a sip, and then put down his glass without comment.

"How do you like it?" anxiously asked the host.

"Better bring out your Beethoven," murmured Brahms.

### Sarcasm

Johannes Brahms could be insufferably sarcastic and rude - even to his friends. On one occasion, after he had upset several people with a series of offensive remarks, Brahms rose to his feet and, preparing to leave the room, paused briefly at the door. "If there is anyone here whom I have not insulted," he said, turning, "I beg his pardon!"

### Facts

- Brahms was born on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1833
- He came from a very poor family
- The young Brahms was sent to play piano at the local inns, brothels and taverns to help earn money for the family.
- Brahms' music is deeply influenced by folk and Gypsy music.
- Brahms didn't work quickly and was a perfectionist.
- Brahms happily gave money to help friends and inspiring musicians
- When he wasn't composing Brahms liked walking
- Brahms was apparently quite grumpy although he did have a lot of friends.
- Brahms died aged 63. It was almost a month to the day after hearing a performance of his 4<sup>th</sup> and final symphony.

### Brahms's Music

*Now we know more about the man, why not listen to some of his music!*

- A German Requiem
- Brahms's Lullaby
- Hungarian Dances
- Symphony No.1
- Die Mainacht
- Piano Quarter, Op.26
- Clarinet Quintet
- Piano Sonata in F minor
- Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op.52
- The Horn Trio
- Cello Sonata in F major
- Violin Sonata No.3
- Viola Sonata No.2