FREDERIC CHOPIN
(1810 – 1849)

Polish composer and virtuoso pianist. Considered one of the greatest Romantic composers. For most of his life Chopin suffered from poor health; he died at age 39.

As a child, Chopin displayed an intelligence that was said to absorb everything and utilize everything for its development. He showed remarkable talent and was believed a musical genius. He published his first composition at age 7 and began performing one year later.

Chopin's music for the piano combined a unique rhythmic sense, as well as a piano technique which was of his own creation. This mixture produces a particularly fragile sound in the melody and the harmony, which are nonetheless underpinned by solid and interesting harmonic techniques.

Chopin performed his own works in concert halls but most often in his salon for friends. Only later in life, as his disease progressed, did Chopin give up public performance altogether.

CONNECTION: French origins from both artists.