

ROMANTIC ERA INSTRUMENTS

A History of Innovation & Expression (1815 - 1910)

c. 1815

The Valve System

Heinrich Stölzel and Friedrich Blümel invent the piston valve, allowing brass instruments to play full chromatic scales.

1821

Double Escapement Action

Sebastien Erard patents the repetition action for pianos, allowing rapid note repetition and greater virtuosity.

1832

Boehm Flute System

Theobald Boehm redesigns the flute with a ring-key system and acoustically placed finger holes.

1840

The Saxophone

Adolphe Sax creates the saxophone family, bridging the tonal gap between woodwinds and brass.

1844

The Modern Tuba

The "Basstuba" is patented by Wieprecht and Moritz, becoming the foundational bass of the romantic orchestra.

1853

Steinway Iron Frames

Steinway & Sons perfect the cast-iron frame, allowing for massive string tension and the "Big" romantic piano sound.

c. 1870

Wagner Tuba

Commissioned by Richard Wagner for the Ring Cycle to provide a bridge between the horn and the trombone.

1880

Celesta

Auguste Mustel invents the keyboard glockenspiel, famously utilized by Tchaikovsky in 'The Nutcracker'.

Educational Template – Non-Submittable Chart