



IDX G10 Music H

Study Guide Issue S1 M2

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The Baroque Period (1600 - 1750) : ages of absolutism

Changes in the Society

- More civilized (medicine, thought, scientific revolution)
- More realistic (paintings)
- More dramatic (arts)
- More gaudy/decorative, excessive ornamentation (architecture)
- More sophisticated (style, dress)
- More depth (philosophically)

Composers

- **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**
 - Bach came from a musical family
 - He was a church organist who extremely productive
 - He had 20 children (4 became composers)
 - Married his cousin Barbara, but she dies at 36 so he married a 21 year old singer
 - Could play the foot organ part better than some famous piano players with their hands

- 1750, year of death, went blind
 - Fugue
- **George Frederic Handel**
 - At the age of 11 gave organ lessons, produced his first opera at 20 years old
 - His father wanted him to be a lawyer not a musician
 - Most famous/prestigious composer of his time. Queen Anne's favorite composer
 - Created his own opera company that went broke and thus created more oratorios
 - Stubborn
- Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
 - known as the “red priest” because he is very religious
 - violin teacher, composer and conductor at an orphanage in Venice
 - died in poverty and his music was forgotten until the 1950s
 - *The Four Seasons*
- Monteverdi
 - First one to compose an opera
- Johann Pachelbel
 - German Baroque composer, organist and teacher

Musical Characteristics

- Unit of mood/rhythm
- Melody continually develops
- Most polyphonic/homophonic in late Baroque
- More understanding of chords/counterpoint
- Orchestras of 10-30/40 people, centered around harpsichord
- Movements in pieces rather than one long song
- Trills
- Terraced dynamics
 - pp - very soft
 - p - soft
 - mp - medium soft

- mf - medium loud
- f - loud
- ff - very loud

Fugue

- subject: theme of fugue
- answer: imitate in dominant key
- three parts
 - exhibition
 - development
 - contrasting
 - coda
 - drone: sustaining low note

Concerto Grosso

- For small group of soloists and orchestra
- Multi-movement work
- Usually 3 movements
 - fast
 - slow (usually quieter)
 - fast (sometimes dance-like)
- Ripieno: support solo
- Concertino: solo
- Ritornello: little return
 - Frequently used in 1st and last movements of concerto grosso
 - Theme repeatedly presented in fragments
 - Contrast between solo section and tutti
 - Theme/Episode/Theme in fragment/Episode.....

Musical Form

- Repetition
 - restating musical ideas
- Contrast

- new ideas
- Variation
 - reworking ideas to keep them new