



**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 she 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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