

Characteristics of the Baroque

- If it has a harpsichord, it's probably Baroque
- If it has a basso continuo, it's probably Baroque
 - Basso Continuo is Baroque "Lead Sheet" notation
 - Be familiar with "figured bass" notation and know how it works.
- Instruments include:
 - Violin, viola, cello, bass (Old style bows and gut strings)
 - Oboe, bassoon, flute (without mechanical keys)
 - Trumpet, horn ("Natural" or no valves)
 - Timpani (fixed pitch – non-tunable)
 - Organ (both large and "portatif" [portative, portativ])
 - harpsichord
 - Lute, guitar, harp
 - Voice
- Rhythmic patterns will often repeat throughout the piece or movement in a manner that pushes the music ahead
- Notation for the basso continuo parts are given via "figured bass" symbols
- Tremolo and pizzicato are used for the first time in this period
- The melody and bass parts tend to be separated by an empty middle space, often giving the music a "hollow" sound.
- The mood/tone/emotion of the music will remain the same throughout the piece, generally speaking
- Use of "Terraced Dynamics"
- You will hear music that is generally polyphonic, but occasionally homophonic
- You will hear 'Monody' – one melodic voice with accompaniment (also, confusingly, sometimes called homophonic)

- You will hear extensive use of ornamentation (“Baroque” or ornate)
- Attention is given to vertical as well as horizontal tonalities
- Predominant musical forms include:
 - Mass
 - Know the text of the Latin Mass
 - Sonata (not the “classical” type)
 - Know what the differences are between this type and the “Classical Period” version
 - Concerto Grosso
 - Know how this differs from a “Concerto.”
 - Suite (new)
 - Fugue
 - Opera (new)
 - Oratorio (new)
 - Cantata (new)
 - Various dance forms
- Increasing use of secular music forms
- Music is mostly in Major or Minor keys
- Major Composers:
 - Henry Purcell
 - Dido & Aeneas
 - The Fairy Queen
 - Sound the Trumpet
 - J.S. Bach
 - Air on a G String
 - Double Violin Concerto
 - Brandenburg Concertos
 - B Minor Mass
 - Unaccompanied Cello Suites
 - George Friedrich Handel
 - Messiah

- Music for the Royal Fireworks
 - Water Music
- Georg Philipp Telemann
 - Viola Concerto in G
 - Trio Sonata in C minor
 - Paris Quartets
- Antonio Vivaldi
 - The Four Seasons
 - Gloria
- Arcangelo Corelli
 - Concerto Grossi
 - Christmas Concerto
- Domenico Scarlatti
 - Essercizi per Gravicembalo (sonatas for harpsichord)
- Jean-Philippe Rameau
 - Hippolyte et Aricie and Castor et Pollux
 - Trait, and Les Indes galantes
- More terms – know definitions and *what they sound like*:
 - Diminution
 - Retrograde
 - Inversion
 - Augmentation
 - False Entrance
 - Middle Entrance
 - Exposition
 - Development
 - Episode
 - Sequence
 - “Free Counterpoint”
 - Stretto
 - Pedal Point
 - Word Painting