Baroque Music
1600 - 1750
To understand and compose modern music, it is important to understand styles of music which have come before.

*In this unit we will......*

Learn the main concepts, Styles and Instruments which developed and shaped music in the BAROQUE era.
What is Baroque music?!?

Baroque was a name given to the highly ornamented style of architecture and art in the 17thC.

Musicians use this word to describe music from when Opera was first developed (1600) to when the composer J.S. Bach died.

The music of the Baroque era was often very grand and commonly used a lot of ornamentation (trills etc.), just like the buildings and architecture of the time.

Listen to this extract from Vivaldi's The 4 Seasons - Summer

What instruments can you hear?

The music of the Baroque era was often very grand and commonly used a lot of ornamentation (trills etc.), just like the buildings and architecture of the time.
A number of new forms and designs, including opera and oratorio, were introduced in the Baroque period. The violin family replaced the viols and the orchestra gradually started to take shape, with a strong section of strings as its foundation.
There were many famous composers from the Baroque Period. Including:

Vivaldi (Italy 1678 – 1741)

Handel (Germany 1685 – 1759)

Bach (Germany 1685 -1750)
Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

Although he is considered a famous and important composer of the Baroque era, most of what Vivaldi composed is lost. The music we do know of, was found in a trunk in the 1920’s.

Listen to this excerpt of Vivaldi’s ‘Four Seasons – Autumn’. Identify in your jotter:

- The instruments you hear and the way they are played
- Any musical concepts you can hear.
Listen again for the following concepts and instruments. Make a note of these in your jotter.

**Instruments:**
String instruments (Such as Violins and Cellos playing **CON ARCO**)
Harpsichord – This was invented before the piano. When the keys were pressed strings were plucked to produce the sound.

**Concepts:**
Repetition – The music repeats.
Imitation – An instrument ‘imitates’ or copies what another instrument has just played.
Sequence – A short series of notes is repeated either at a higher or lower pitch.
Ornaments – TRILLS etc. Extra notes used to decorate the music.
Concerto Or Not?

Vivaldi wrote many CONCERTOS. As music has progressed, the definition of this term has developed. For our purpose, a Concerto means “A piece of music which includes a soloist and accompanying instruments”.

Vivaldi Cello Concerto

Quiz time: Are the following excerpts of music from a Concerto or not?

1.  
2.  
3.  
Revision Break!

Concerto

IMITATION

Repetition

Ornaments

Con Arco

Trills

String Instruments

Sequence

Harpsichord
Pachelbel’s Canon

In the Baroque period the **CANON** was developed. This is when there is strict imitation in the music. After one part starts to play or sing a melody, another part enters shortly afterwards with exactly the same melody. Pachelbel’s Canon in D, is a particularly famous example of this. 🎼
In Pachelbel’s Canon you also hear a **GROUND BASS**, a common type of bass line found in Baroque music. This is simply a theme in the bass part, which is repeated many times while the upper parts are varied.

Listen again to this canon and write down THREE words which best describes what you hear in the music. Choose from the following:

- ARCO
- HARPSICHORD
- ORGAN
- SEQUENCES
- BARITONE
**Homophonic and Polyphonic**

*Phonic* is Latin for sound. *Poly* is Latin for ‘many’. Therefore *Polyphonic* literally means ‘Many sound’. Music is *Polyphonic* if it has 2 or more equally important melody lines playing at the same time.

*Homo* is Latin for ‘the same’. Therefore *Homophonic* literally means ‘The same sound’. Music is *homophonic* if there is one clear melody above the accompaniment or all parts move together rhythmically.

Is Pachelbel’s Canon primarily homophonic or polyphonic?
Johann Sebastian Bach (Germany 1685 - 1750)

Bach came from a very musical family where his father and brothers and eventually his own children were involved in composing and performing.

Although he did receive some lessons, Bach became a renowned Organist primarily through being self-taught.

‘Bach’ means a brook or small stream in German. Beethoven once said that ‘Ocean’ would have been a more suitable title.
Listen to some of Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in Bb Major* and identify three concepts that you can hear in the music. Choose from the following:

- **Major**
- **Minor**
- **Homophonic**
- **Polyphonic**
- **Arco**
- **Pizzicato**

This piece contains a **Pedal**, which is a sustained note in the bass i.e. A note which is held on or is repeated continuously in the bass beneath changing harmonies.

**Which instrument is playing the pedal in this example?**

**Inverted Pedal** is a sustained note in the top part i.e. One long note which sounds in the upper part instead of in the bass.
SUSPENSIONS - this effect occurs when a note from one chord is held over to the next chord creating a DISCORD, and is then resolved by moving one step to make a CONCORD.

Listen to and follow the graphic score of Bach’s

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor

Comment upon the following:

- TONALITY
- TEMPO
- TEXTURE
- DYNAMICS
- MELODIC, HARMONIC & RHYTHMIC TECHNIQUES
Listen to Bach’s Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major

Comment upon the following:

- TONALITY
- TEMPO
- TEXTURE
- DYNAMICS
- MELODIC, HARMONIC & RHYTHMIC TECHNIQUES
Revision Break!

PEDAL

GROUND BASS

HOMOPHONIC

POLYPHONIC

SUSPENSIONS

INVERTED PEDAL
George Frederick Handel (1685 – 1759)

Although he was born in Germany, Handel spent most of his life in England, eventually applying to become a citizen. In 1717 Handel composed the Water Music, a collection of orchestral movements, for King George I who wanted to hold a concert on the River Thames. Handel - Water Music

Handel also invented a style of music called the Oratorio… Handel's Messiah, Hallelujah Chorus
The Oratorio and the Opera

Both of these styles of music were developed within the Baroque era.

**OPERA** – A vocal work which made use of costumes and sets. Often in another language (i.e. Italian) - [Handel - Orlando](http://example.com)

**Oratorio** – A religious vocal work often sung in English. **No sets or costumes were used**

- [Bach - Oratorio](http://example.com)
Features of an Opera and Oratorio – Voices

Soprano
Mezzo Soprano
Alto
Counter Tenor
Tenor
Baritone
Bass

When all the main voices come together and sing in a choir/chorus, it is often called SATB.
MELISMATIC SINGING

MELISMATIC – singing more than one or indeed several notes on the same syllable. This is a common feature in vocal music from the Baroque era.

Is this example in a MAJOR or MINOR key?
Describe the tempo of the music.

SYLLABIC SINGING

The opposite effect of melismatic is SYLLABIC - when the vocalist sings one note for each syllable.

Is this musical example ACOMPANIED or UNACCOMPANIED
Sections of an Opera or Oratorio

**ARIA** – A main song often sung by a soloist.

**CHORUS** – Sung by the full choir / chorus.

**RECITATIVE** – “Sung speech” used to move the story forward.
**Chorale**

A Passion also has a unique feature that the oratorio doesn’t which enables the audience to participate, these are CHORALES (German hymn tunes) which are heard throughout the work which the audience sings as well as the choir (SATB). These are usually HOMOPHONIC in texture.

**Cantata**

The cantata is like a miniature oratorio, with soloists, chorus and orchestra. They often end with a CHORALE.

Listen to this example of a Cantata. Which 3 concepts do you hear in the music. Choose from:  
- HARPSICHORD  
- SIMPLE TIME  
- CHORUS  
- COMPOUND TIME  
- RECITATIVE
Passion

Another type of vocal work from the Baroque period is a PASSION. Like the Oratorio, a Passion is a sacred work. It is however based on a particular time in the bible: the disciples (Mark, Matthew, Luke, John)

It is a large scale work, containing recitatives, arias and choruses, and is usually sung in German.

Name the accompanying keyboard instrument in this example.
IMITATION

Imitation is present in lots of Baroque music. This simply means copying of parts. When you imitate a person speaking or an action you are copying it.

Listen to the imitation in ‘And the glory of the lord’ from ‘Messiah.’ The words are: “And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed”

And the Glory of the Lord
Cadences

A ‘Cadence’ is a sequence of 2 different chords. The 3 cadences used within Baroque

- **Perfect Cadence** – [Chord V to Chord I] A Perfect Cadence makes the music sound finished.

- **Imperfect Cadence** – [Chord IV – V] An Imperfect cadence gives the effect that more music is needed.

- **Tierce de Picardie** – (Major/Minor) A piece of music in a minor key which ends with a major key.
Forms and Structures…

Different styles of music can use different structures. Match the correct form or structure to the correct graphic…

- Binary Form
- Ternary Form
- Rondo Form
- Canon
- Theme and Variations
Forms and Structures…

Match the correct form or structure to the correct graphic…

- Binary Form - A B
- Ternary Form - A B A
- Rondo Form - A B A C A D A
- Canon - A A B A A B A B
- Theme and Variations - A A A A
Revision Break!

Binary Form

Ternary Form

Rondo Form

Canon Form

Theme and Variations
Revision Time!

- Baroque
- Concerto
- Oratorio
- Opera
- Cantata
- Chorale
- Aria
- Recitative
- Chorus
- Soprano
- Alto
- Tenor
- Bass
- Counter Tenor
- Violin
- Cello
- Harpsichord
- Con Arco
Revision Time!

- Repetition
- Imitation
- Sequence
- Ornaments
- Oratorio
- Melismatic Word Setting
- Syllabic Word Setting
- Binary Form
- Ternary Form
- Rondo Form

- Polyphonic
- Homophonic
- Pedal
- Ground Bass
- Perfect Cadence
- Imperfect Cadence
- Tierce de Picardie
- Canon
- Theme and Variations