

I. Baroque Beginnings

- “Baroque”: origin of the usage is not clear, but it is the French form of “barroco,” a Portuguese term for an irregularly shaped pearl.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in his 1768 music dictionary: “Baroque music is that in which harmony is confused, charged with modulations and dissonances, in which the melody is harsh and little natural, intonation difficult, and the movement constrained.”
- Baroque Period (c. 1600 to 1750)
 - Council of Trent (1545-1563) and changes in musical technology
 - Baroque is characterized by an emphasis on drama and heightened emotions, achieved both boldly and with attention to detail, intricacy, ornamentation.
 - Composers experimented with different methods to play on those emotions, or affectations, from the late 16th to the late 17th centuries.
 - Monteverdi was one of the first to describe what he termed the old (“prima pratica”) and new (“seconda pratica”) styles of composing.
 - Experimentations in harmony and meter, no longer controlled by set rules
 - Producing new musical forms, including opera and symphony
 - “Recitative”: words control music, music without meter
 - By 1680, spontaneous or experimental effects were giving way again to standardized usage.
- But do we hear the emotions that those of the Baroque period would have?

II. Madrigals, Cantatas, Operas, Oratorios

- Sacred and Profane
 - Catholic or Counter Reformation rejected polyphony, but Palestrina managed to preserve it
 - Oratorio: a compromise between the increasingly popular secular opera and restrictions on music performed in church
 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)
 - George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)
 - Opera: a dramatic outgrowth of the madrigal
 - Claudio Monteverdi (c. 1567 - 1643)
 - Italian court musician and composer, originally a writer of madrigals, who developed the 16th century style of monody (single line of vocal melody with instrumental accompaniment) into the first widely popular opera, and one still performed today: *L’Orfeo* (1607; note classical, not religious, subject)
- Terms:
 - Madrigal: two or more voices with a secular text, eventually merged into cantata
 - Opera: dramatic exposition of secular text. *Opera seria*: dramatic. *Opera buffa*: comic
 - Oratorio: non-dramatic performance of religious text
 - Cantata: shorter than an opera or oratorio, and not to be acted, but otherwise similar to them

III. Rise of Instrumental Music

- Development of counterpoint instead of harmonic chords as basis of melody (continuation of Renaissance music) – especially “imitative counterpoint”
- Development of purely instrumental forms, including symphony and quartet
- Development of concerts paid for by the audience, instead of by a patron or the church
- Major composers: Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741), Bach, and Handel

Playlist

1. J. S. Bach, Cantata BWV #75. Yo-Yo Ma, cello. Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra. *Simply Baroque 2*. Sony.
2. G.F. Handel, Water Music. Suite 2 in D major (HWV 349), Alla Hornpipe. From *Water Music* (1987). Youtube.
3. “Son qual nave ch’agitata” from the film *Farinelli* (1994). Youtube.
4. “Son qual nave ch’agitata,” featuring Cecilia Bartoli, Coloratura Mezzo-Soprano. Youtube.
5. Claudio Monteverdi, *Cruda Amarilli*. Rinaldo Alessandrini and Concerto Italiano. Youtube.
6. Barbara Strozzi, *Lamento - Lagrime mie, a che vi trattenete*. Anna Caterina Antonacci, soprano and the Accademia degli Astrusi. Youtube.
7. C. Monteverdi, *L’Orfeo* (1607). Savall, Zanasi, et al., in Barcelona’s Gran Teatre del Liceu (2002). Youtube.
8. J. S. Bach, “The Coffee Cantata” BWV #211. Excerpt from unidentified documentary. Youtube.
9. Johann Pachelbel, *Canon in D*. Stringspace String Quartet. Youtube.
10. J. S. Bach, *The Art of the Fugue* (BWV 1080), Contrapunctus 4. Glenn Gould, piano. Youtube.
11. Antonio Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*: “Summer,” 3. Presto. Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin. Youtube.
12. G. F. Handel, *The Messiah*: “Hallelujah Chorus.” King’s College Choir, 1994. Youtube.
13. Johann Pachelbel, *Canon in D*. funtwo, electric guitar. Youtube.