

The Baroque Period

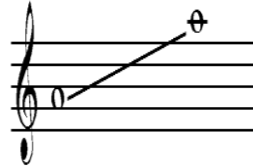
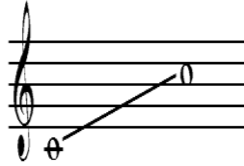
The Baroque period lasted from approximately **1600 – 1750**

The word **Baroque** is used to describes the highly ornamented style of fashion, art, architecture and, of course Music.

It was during the Baroque Period that many Modes fell from use.

Two Modes became dominant.

They were the Ionian and the Aeolian Modes.



Better known today as the scales of..

C Major

A Minor(now with a #7th note)

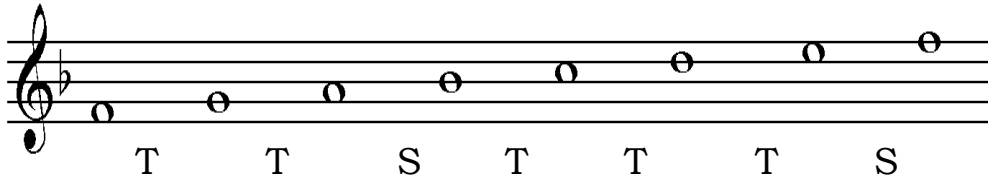
From this time onwards the Major and Minor Key System ruled.

Key Signatures

As C Major and A Minor are the templates for all Major and Minor scales, they do not have any sharps or flats in their Key Signature.

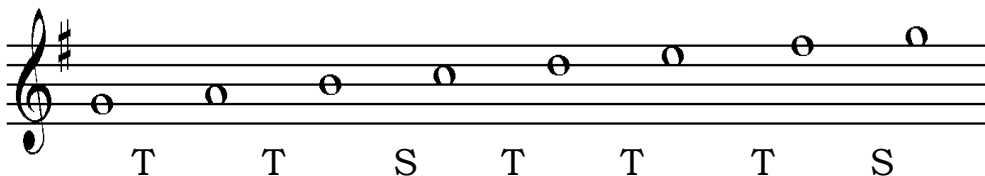
In order for a scale starting on the note F to follow the same pattern of Tones and Semitones as C Major, the B needs to be flattened.

This is the Key Signature of **F Major**.



In order for a scale starting on the note G to follow the same pattern of Tones and Semitones as C Major, the F needs to be Sharpened.

This is the Key Signature of **G Major**.



The Baroque Orchestra

String Instruments

The viol family was replaced by the new Violin family of instruments and its sound became the dominant timbre in the Baroque Orchestra.

The Basso continuo

was at the heart of the Baroque Orchestra. It is sometimes just called the "Continuo" and was played by a keyboard instrument. The keyboard instrument was either a Harpsichord or an Organ. It played 'Continuously', holding the Orchestra together and filling out the harmonies.

The Harpsichord

was a very popular keyboard instrument in the Baroque era. Its sound was produced by quills plucking strings when the keys were pressed. It is the most distinctive sound of the Baroque Period.

The Pipe Organ

is a keyboard Instrument in which the sound is made by air blowing through pipes.

In the Baroque period someone would have to operate bellows to provide the flow of air.

The organist played the instrument using both the hands and the feet.

The Baroque Orchestra Consisted of:-

Wind Instruments Flute, Oboe and Bassoon.

Brass instruments Trumpet Horn, and Trombone

Percussion Instruments Timpani(Kettle drums)

String Instruments Violins, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses

Continuo Harpsichord or Organ

The Mass

The Mass continued from the Renaissance Period as a Major Form of work.

A Mass is a Roman Catholic Church Service

It is sung in Latin and has a fixed text(the same words)

It has 5 Sections. These are...

Kyrie Eleison

Gloria

Credo

Sanctus, Hosanna, Benedictus (These are interchangeable)

Agnus Dei

The Renaissance Mass

Fixed Latin text

Several vocal parts

Polyphonic texture

Usually unaccompanied

The Baroque Mass

Fixed Latin text

Several vocal parts

Polyphonic texture

Accompanied by Orchestra

Now contains Arias (Songs)

Oratorio

An Oratorio is a large scale, Sacred, Vocal work.

It is sung in English and is performed by an SATB Choir and Orchestra.

An Oratorio contains :-

Choruses

These are the sections for the whole choir to sing.

Recitatives These are sung speech. They serve the purpose of telling parts of the story as well as being links between Choruses and Arias.

Arias

These are songs. They can be sung solo or as duets.

Often Aria's from this period followed the Ternary(A,B,A)form.

They were called Da Capo Arias.

This was because the instruction D.C. Al Fine appeared at the end of Section B. This told the singer to go back, repeat and finish at the end of Section A.

To keep the repeat interesting the singer was expected to add ornaments To the repeated section.

J.S. Bach(1685-1750)

Chorales

Bach was a Church Organist. He wrote Organ and Choir music for the Sunday Services.

He wrote hundreds of Chorales which are hymn tunes.

They were Strophic and Homophonic.

They were written for SATB Choir and were always sung in German.

Chorale Preludes

A Chorale Prelude was a Chorale played on the Organ

Prelude means 'before'. It is thought that the Organist played the Chorale first to let the Congregation know what the Choir was going to sing. To make it entertaining to listen to he would add ornaments.

Cantatas

A Cantata is very similar to an Oratorio

It contains Choruses, Arias ,Recitative but also Chorales.

However, they were on a smaller scale than an Oratorios

As they were written to be performed in church during the Sunday services

Many of Bach's greatest cantatas begin with a chorus ,this is followed by a couple of Arias and Recitatives and end with a plain Chorale.

Passions

A Passion is a type of Oratorio.

They deal only with the story of the Crucifixion of Christ

Due to their subject, they always sound serious.

Like Cantatas , Passions contain Chorales as well as Choruses ,Recitatives and Arias.

As they were all written by Bach, they are all sung in German.

The Fugue

The Fugue is regarded as the most fully developed form of imitative, polyphonic music

The word 'Fugue' comes from the Latin 'to flee' or 'to chase'

This describes the Fugue well, as each part seems to be fleeing, chasing and weaving round the other.

Fugues were written for keyboard instruments such as the Harpsichord and the Organ.

Bach wrote 48 Fugues.

A Fugue has 3 main sections called the Exposition, the middle and the Coda.

A fugue opens with one main theme, the Subject, and is in the Tonic (home) key.

It then sounds successively in each voice in imitation.

These imitations are called Answers.

They can be Real Answers, an exact copy or a Tonal Answer altered in some way.

These Answers are often in the Dominant Key (up a 5th)

When each voice has entered, the Exposition is complete.

The Middle Section. Is flanked either side by Episodes. These are short linking passages.

The final section is the Coda and we have returned to the Tonic (Home)Key.

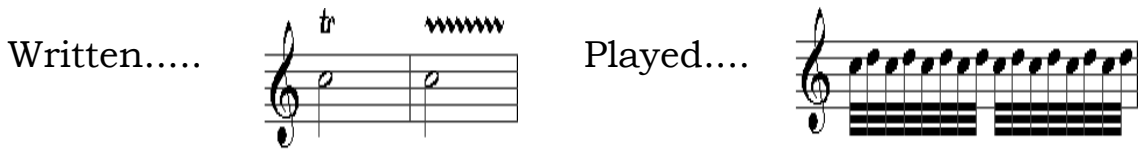
Fugues contain quickly overlapping entries called Stretto

Ornaments

Ornaments are an extremely important feature of Baroque music.
They are used to decorate and add interest to the music.
These are the ornaments you have to recognise:-

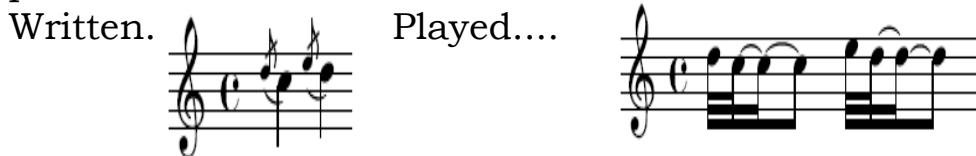
Acciaccatura, Appoggiatura, Mordent, Trill and Turn.

The **Trill** is a rapid alternation between two adjacent notes, usually a semitone or a tone apart.



The word **Acciaccatura** comes from the Italian, "to crush".

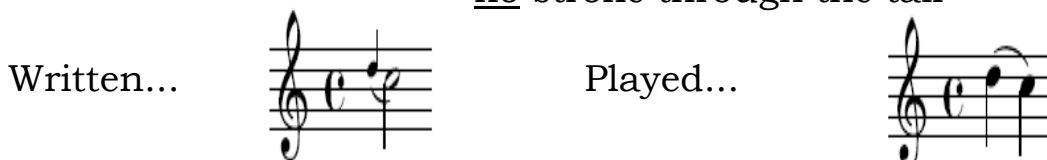
It is written using a grace note with a stroke through the stem. The objective is to play the grace (or crushed) note as quickly as possible thus taking as little time from the main note as possible.



Appoggiatura comes from the Italian "to lean upon".

The **appoggiatura** is important melodically. It takes away half the time value of the note.

The appoggiatura is written as a grace note with no stroke through the tail



A **Mordent** indicates that the note is to be played in a single rapid alternation with the note above or below it.

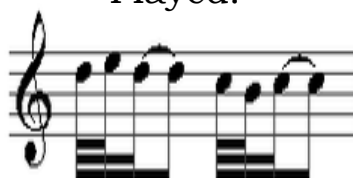
The Upper Mordent alternates with the note above and has no line through the 'squiggle'.

The Lower Mordent alternates with the note below and has a line through the 'squiggle'. Written:-

Upper Mordent Lower Mordent




Played:-



A **Turn** consists of the note above, the note itself, the note below and the note itself again. It is marked by an S-shape lying on its side above the note.

Written...



Played...



Instrumental Forms

Concerto Grosso

The Concerto Grosso was the forerunner of the Modern Concerto.

Unlike the modern Concerto, there was no soloist.

The Concerto Grosso contrasted a small group of player with a large one.

The Concertino The Small group

The Ripieno The large group

Ritornello

The word 'Ritornello' means to 'return'.

It refers to a main theme which is played at the start of a movement and then returns between other sections.

This results in the structure being **A - B - A - C - A - D - A**

This is the same as the more modern RONDO FORM.

Ground Bass-A repeated melody in the Bass line

Chaconne and Passacaglia

were both instrumental pieces based on variation.

They had 3 beats in a bar and were based on a repeated Chord pattern or Ground Bass

Canon

Is a Contrapuntal Composition in which a theme continually comes round and is repeated and imitated by various parts.

Often Variation is added to sustain interest.

The Suite

A Suite is a **collection** of dances.

They were short, in **Binary form(A,B)** and were played on a **Harpichord** or by an **Orchestra**.

There were many types of dances. This is a selection with different Time Signatures and tempos.

Bouree
2/4 Allegro

Gavotte
4/4 Andante

Gigue
6/8 Allegro

Minuet
3/4 Moderato

Opera

Opera was 'born' in the Baroque Period

An Opera has all the same musical ingredients as an Oratorio. These are.....

The Overture The Music played by the Orchestra at the beginning

Choruses For the SATB Choir to sing

Arias For the main Characters

Recitatives Sung Speech to link the action

Of course the important difference was the content.

It was Secular and had acting, colourful sets and costumes.