

# Year 9 Music Knowledge Booklet

# Autumn Term Baroque Music

Name:			

Class:



### **Year 9 Music**

## **Baroque Music**

The Baroque period refers to an era that started around 1600 and ended around 1750, and included composers like Bach, Vivaldi and Handel, who pioneered new styles like the concerto and the sonata.

Non-religious music could now flourish, in particular instrumental music. The idea that instruments should be grouped together in a standard way created the first versions of the modern orchestra.

In lessons we will be studying features of Baroque music and working on group performances of Johann Pachelbel's 'Canon', a famous piece of Baroque music, often used at weddings.

## **Big Questions**

- 1. What is Baroque music?
- 2. How do you perform a ground bass?
- 3. What can I remember about the Baroque period?
- 4. What is structure?
- 5. Baroque or not?
- 6. What does my group need to do to improve our performance?
- 7. How much do I know about Baroque music?
- 8. What does my group need to do to improve our performance?
- 9. Who were Bach and Handel and why were they important?
- 10. What does quality feedback look like?
- 11. How well can my group perform Pachelbel's 'Canon'?

# Baroque Era - 1600-1750

The Baroque period refers to an era that started around 1600 and ended around 1750, and included composers like Bach, Vivaldi and Handel, who pioneered new styles like the concerto and the sonata. The Baroque period saw an explosion of new musical styles with the introduction of the concerto, the sonata and the opera.

The loosening of the Church's political control of Europe meant that non-religious music could now flourish, in particular instrumental music. The idea that instruments should be grouped together in a standard way created the first versions of the modern orchestra. Composers were employed by the patronage system, where wealthy aristocrats and the Church would become the patron or employer of a composer, deciding what type of music they should write for their entertainment.

An important type of instrumental music in the Baroque era was the **concerto**. A concerto is a large-scale composition for an orchestra plus a soloist or group of soloists. Some of the greatest composers of concertos were Corelli, Bach Handel and Vivaldi, who wrote over 500!! There were two types of Baroque concerto - the **solo concerto** (for one soloist) and **concerto grosso** (for a group of soloists). A concerto grosso is written for a group of solo instruments (concertino) and a larger ensemble (ripieno). Bach wrote six concerto grosso called the Brandenburg Concertos, named after his patron the Margrave of Brandenburg.

An **opera** is a staged performance of a play which is set to music and performed by a cast of singers with orchestra. Opera encouraged composers to devise ways of illustrating moods in their music; affecting the listener's emotions became a major objective in composition during this period. Opera spread to France and England, and composers such as Rameau, Handel and Purcell began producing great works.

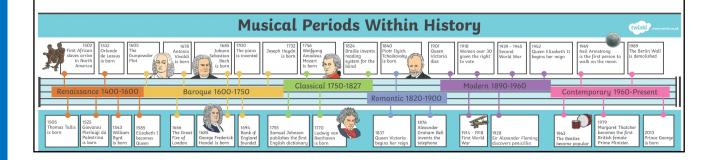
Music was one of the main forms of entertainment during the Baroque era, both to listen and to accompany dancing. The **orchestral suite** is a collection of dances for such events. Handel's Water Music and Music for the Royal Fireworks are suites written to accompany royal festivals.

The first movement of each in an **overture** and this is followed by a number of dances often including:

- ⇒ **Courante** three beats per bar, moderate speed
- ⇒ **Gavotte** 2/2 or 4/4 time, often with each phrase beginning halfway through thr bar
- ⇒ **Minuet** 3/4 time, moderate speed
- $\Rightarrow$  **Gigue** lively and in compound time (6/8, 9/8 or 12/8)

Most of the dances were in **binary form.** Binary form has two sections - A and B. The music moves to a new key at the end of the A section and returns to the home key in the B section.

Bach is regarded as one of the greatest geniuses in the history of music. He demonstrated a standard approach to harmony that dominated music until the late 19th century.



# **Knowledge Organiser - Baroque**

#### **KEYWORDS**

Baroque Musical era from 1600-1750

**Ground Bass** Repeating bass line with melodies over the top

**Harpsichord** Keyboard instrument where strings are plucked used in the Baroque era

**Strings** Family of instruments played by bowing or plucking a string

**Texture** Musical element describing the different parts or layers in a piece of music

**Polyphonic** Type of texture with two or more melodies played at the same time

**Ornaments** Musical decorations like trills, mordents etc

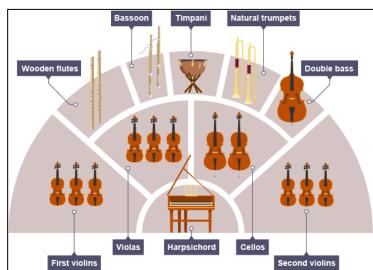
**Bass Clef** Clef used for low pitched instruments like the cello or bassoon

Composer Someone who writes music

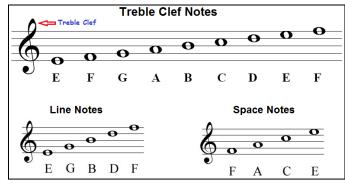
**Patron** Someone who employs musicians or composers

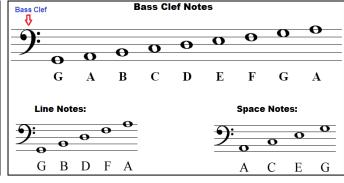
Tempo Musical element describing speed



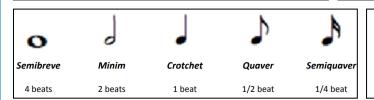






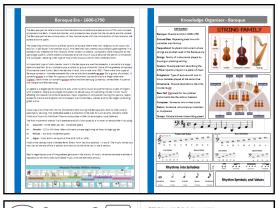


### **Rhythms into Syllables**



**Rhythm Symbols and Values** 

## **Homework Tasks**



#### 1. Knowledge Organiser

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the Knowledge Organiser pages on Baroque music to prepare for an Engage Task quiz.

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to. The first has been completed for you:				
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The string family are playing				
The saxophone plays the melody				
The first instrument to play is a cymbal				
The speed is moderate				Q4: Which piece do you prefer and why? You should aim to give musical reasons such as the instruments used or
Most of the instruments are wind instruments				the pace of the music.
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There is a plane				
The repeated bass line is played by the cello				
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You'll be listening to two tracks and comparing them. One is Baroque and one is a modern remix. You will need to write about tempo and mood in full sentences.

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 3. Listening Log 3

You'll be listening to one Baroque and one modern piece that use ground bass structure. You will need to pick out musical features and express your opinion using musical reasons.

Due Date:

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#### 4. Term 1 Assessment Revision

Use your Knowledge Booklet to revise for your Term 1 assessment, based on all that you have learnt so far in this topic.

Due Date:	



#### 5 & 6. Baroque Presentation

With a partner, spend two homeworks working on a presentation or informative display poster about the Baroque period.

Due Date:

# Sample Assessment (Listening)

**Baroque Listening Assessment** 

You will be asked a series of questions about three pieces of music.

You will need to identify musical elements that you can hear and features that place the piece in its historical context.

- 1) What family of instruments is providing the accompaniment?
- 2) What type of female voice is singing?
- 3) Which instrument is playing the ground bass line?
- 4) How many beats are in each bar?
- 5) This song is from a musical drama called \_\_\_\_\_\_

# **Sample Assessment (Performing)**

Performance Assessment of Pachelbel's Canon

0-5% Little or no contribution

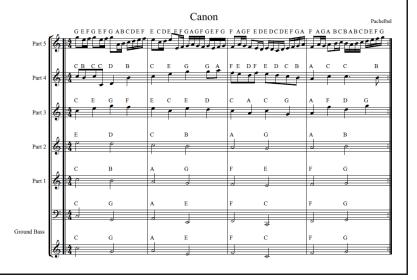
15-35% Playing Ground Bass/Part 1/Part 2

45-55% Part 3

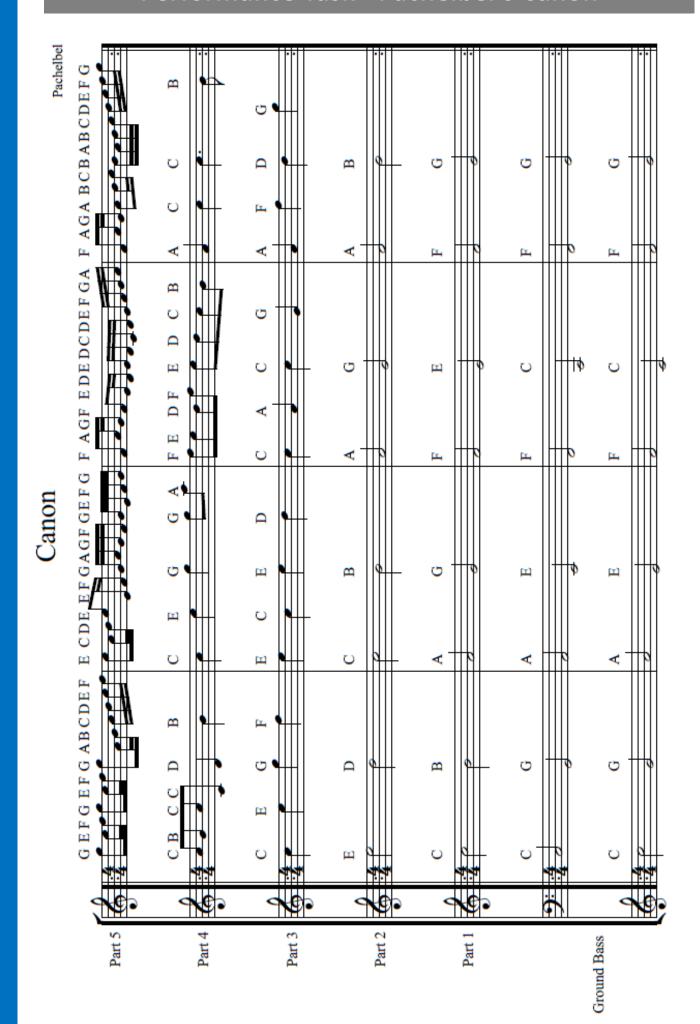
65-75% Part 4

85-95% Part 5

More marks available for accuracy and fluency



# Performance Task - Pachelbel's Canon



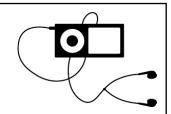
## **Further Understanding**

#### WIDER LISTENING

'When I am laid in earth'- Henry Purcell

'Concerto for 2 Violins' - J S Bach

'Hallelujah Chorus' - G F Handel



#### WIDER WATCHING



https://study.com/academy/lesson/ground-bass-definition-composers-instruments-examples.html

- Ground Bass: Definition, Composers, Instruments & Examples https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10YQn3aXAF8
- What is the difference between the piano and harpsichord? https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/z2mv34j/revision/1
  - GCSE Bitesize Baroque orchestral music

