



The Baroque Era

1600-1750



From Renaissance to Baroque

- From technical to emotional
 - Tempo changes
 - Terrace dynamics
 - Crescendo, diminuendo
 - Major and minor tonalities
- Opera
 - Monody
- Instrumental Music
 - Large orchestra
 - Larger variety of instruments
 - Wider tone colors
 - Concerto grosso and concertos
 - Keyboard works

The Term Baroque

- Derived from the Italian *barroco* meaning “*bizarre*”
- Jean Baptiste Rousseau
 - French Poet
 - Criticized Italian composers
 - “in which harmony is confused”






Opera

- Development of monody
- Camerata
 - Poets, writers, musicians and composers
 - Revived ancient Greek drama
 - Solo voice with exaggerated speech
 - Stile rappresentativo
 - Le nuove musiche
- Dafne
 - 1597 composed by Jacopo Peri
 - “Drama through music”
 - Opera derived from the Latin word for “work” as in “work of art” came into common use in the early 1600s



Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

- Virtuoso violin player
- Revived the Opera
- Wrote his first madrigals at age 17
- The Fable of Orpheus 
 - His first Opera
 - It was a triumph
 - First use of the modern orchestra
 - Pizzicato and tremolo



Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

- Very prolific composer
 - 50 Operas
 - 40 pieces for choir and orchestra
 - 100 works for orchestra alone
 - Nearly 500 concertos
 - Violin concertos
 - Crescendos and diminuendos
- Known as “The Red Priest”
 - Wasn’ t a priest very long
- Most famous work
 - *Four Seasons*



George Frederic Handel

1685-1759

- Well known during his time
- Noted for his explosive temperament
- Wrote 36 operas
- Wrote many oratorios
- Most Famous Work
 - *Messiah*





Baroque Keyboard Music

- Germany and northern Europe
 - School of mostly religious baroque music
 - Large pipe organs
 - Dietrich Buxtehude
 - Toccatas
 - Brilliant pieces of rapid music

Johann Sebastian Bach



- The musical Bachs
- J.S. Bach
 - Studied with Buxtehude
 - Noted organist and organ repairman while alive
 - Reprimanded for his new style of playing
 - Music full of counterpoint
 - Wrote many fugues
 - Most of his works not published during his lifetime
 - Most famous work
 - Brandenburg Concertos
 - Never heard it performed
 - Died July 28, 1750
 - Date marked the end of the Baroque