

Men's Choir

Listening Lesson

May 6, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:
Students will learn about Baroque choral music



Warm Up

1. On a separate piece of paper, write what the following words mean to you:
 - a. Baroque
 - b. Polyphonic
 - c. Homophonic

If you are having trouble, use this link to help:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>



The Baroque Period- 1600-1750

Last week we talked about dynamics and phrasing. This week is about putting all of the elements together to analyze certain musical styles. This week is the music of the Baroque period. The art and architecture of the Baroque period reflects an often bizarre style characterized by ornamental decorations. It was truly art reflecting reality in the sense of the architecture and churches becoming decorated elegantly. The music of the period reflects the decorative art in the use of ornamentation to embroider melodies. Thick and complex polyphonic texture prevails in many composers works. A sense of drama and urgency is incorporated into in vocal forms such as the cantata, mass, opera, oratorio and passion, and in instrumental forms such as the concerto, concerto grosso, prelude, fugue, toccata sonata and suite. Vibrant rhythms and expressive dissonances heighten tension in many Baroque works.



The Leading Composers

The two best known Baroque composers are Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel, both Germans. Other composers include Buxtehude, Pachelbel and Telemann. English Baroque composers include William Byrd and Henry Purcell. Italian Baroque composers include Monteverdi, Corelli, Vivaldi and Scarlatti. These composers have written many songs that directors assign to soloists. A lot of the Italian composers can be found in the 24 Italian Songs and Arias. We also sing/hear pieces by all these composers in the present day.

[Pachelbel's Cannon](#)



Practice

Let's talk about polyphonic vs homophonic. Homophonic music is music that has one melodic line that is accompanied by chords. All voices sing the same melody. This is often found in solo music. Polyphonic music simultaneously features two or more relatively independent and important melodic lines. We find this type of music in a choral setting. It makes sense that we find this music in the Baroque period since churches are a very important part of people's daily lives and hymns are how people learned how to sing.



Individual Practice

Your goal here is to listen to the links and based on the music, you should decide whether it is homophonic or polyphonic.

1. <https://youtu.be/BjcSpCSUjdk>
2. <https://youtu.be/Kpy563y7vL8>
3. <https://youtu.be/XnHs8ah7YQs>
4. <https://youtu.be/YtjzMsHuk6U>



Additional Practice

For extra practice, listen to these links and list them as homophonic or polyphonic. Also include interesting features that find/use our terms of phrasing, dynamics, timbre, intonation, blend, and balance.

<https://youtu.be/usfiAsWR4qU>

<https://youtu.be/5mvpnpez2BbU>

<https://youtu.be/GMkmQlfOJDk>

<https://youtu.be/spMl7mjKN4g>