

Music 101

Baroque Period 1600-1750

General Characteristics

1. Ornamentation

Art - Decoration, curves, statues

Music - Embellishments, musical decorations

Ex. 1 Every Valley Shall be Exalter (Messiah)
Use of tone painting on word "Exalted" with fancy

Ex. 2 Fancy violin solo in Cantata No. 140 of J. S. Bach
Ornamental runs for violin)
Duet for soprano & bass) Polyphonic texture
Basso continuo part in bass)
using Figured Bass)

Also shows equality of instrumental and vocal parts

Ex. 3 Trumpet and voice now equal partners in Bach Cantata
voices uses ornamental runs to rejoice in the Lord –
example of Tone Painting

Ex. 4 Bach Toccata D minor, for organ, a Baroque form which is built on
fancy runs up and down the organ.

2. Love of Grandiose

Art – architecture – huge paintings and churches

Music – a) music for the organ/Bach

Ex. 5 b) music for 8-part chorus/B minor Mass "Gloria"

c) invention of opera

3. Movement

Art – driving energy, twisted torsos, feeling of movement

Music – unflagging rhythm—spirit of dance music with strong
metrical accents

4. Love of Bright, Vivid Colors in Art

Music – bright, pungent sounds of Baroque music

Ex. 6 Brandenburg concerto No. 2 use of violin, oboe, recorder & trumpet

Ex. 7 Use of harpsichord – Purcell *Hornpipe*

Ex. 8 Use of viol consort – shows a contrast to Baroque ideal – all the viol sounds are homogenous & blend together. Baroque instruments have bright sounds that clash with each other.
Notice Polyphonic texture & use of imitation.

Ex. 9 Viola d'amore – Unusual harmonic colors.

5. Contrast

Art – Light against dark effects

Music – Terrace dynamics – loud against soft effects

Ex. 10 Vivaldi concerto in B-flat.