

The Late Baroque Period

(ca. 1680-1750)

Composers

- ▶ **Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)**
 - ▶ Influential Italian composer of instrumental music
- ▶ **Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)**
 - ▶ Italian conductor, composer, and teacher
- ▶ **George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)**
 - ▶ German composer who lived and worked in England
- ▶ **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**
 - ▶ Great German composer and organist
 - ▶ Other late Baroque composers:
 - ▶ Alessandro & Domenico Scarlatti (Italy), Johann Pachelbel (Germany), Dietrich Buxtehude (Germany), George Phillip Telemann (Germany), Francois Couperin (France), Jean-Philippe Rameau (France)

Characteristics of the late Baroque

- ▶ **Unity of affect:** a single mood is sustained throughout (rather than contrasting moods)
- ▶ **Fortsponnung:** motivic unity achieved through the “spinning-out” of motivic ideas that are all related to one another
- ▶ Driving rhythms and active, goal-directed bass lines
- ▶ A much firmer sense of tonality, allowing modulations to more key areas (which always return to the home key)
- ▶ More active and regular harmonic rhythm
- ▶ Frequent use of harmonic and melodic sequences
- ▶ Seventh chords are now accepted as consonant chords
- ▶ Enlargement of form into much larger formal units

Principal genres

- ▶ **Instrumental**
 - ▶ **Trio sonata:** a popular type of chamber instrumental work
 - ▶ **Concerto:** a work that contrasts a soloist with a large group
 - ▶ **Suite:** a collection of dances, often for a solo instrument
 - ▶ **Fugue:** the most important type of contrapuntal composition
 - ▶ **Invention:** a two-part contrapuntal work (by Bach)
 - ▶ **Canon:** a contrapuntal work with strict imitation
- ▶ **Vocal**
 - ▶ **Da capo aria:** the most common type of opera aria
 - ▶ **Oratorio:** a dramatic sacred work for chorus and orchestra
 - ▶ **Cantata:** a sacred work for chorus and orchestra