

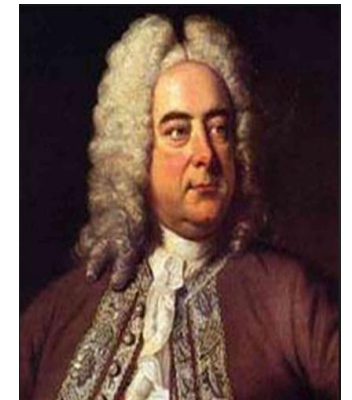
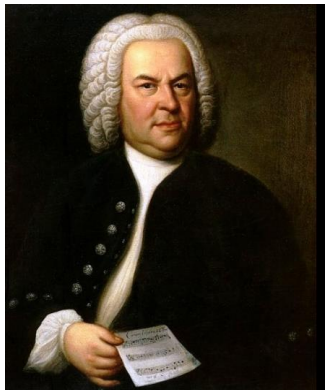
Great Composers

Year 6 Study & Research Project

A selection of some of the most famous pieces
of music of all time!

Listen and Learn

how music developed through the Baroque period.



Hi Year 6 – I hope you are all well and working hard.

Learning Objective:

I would like you to use this booklet to help you to develop your knowledge and understanding of how music developed during the Baroque period.

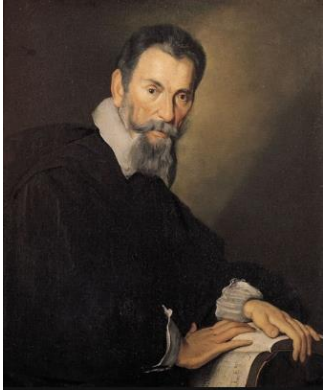
It will be good to know the names of some of the very famous composers and to listen to their music. I hope you find the music interesting!

If you click on the You Tube links and they do not load, just type in the names of the pieces and the composer's name.

There is an activity to complete and submit (on *Word*) at the end of the booklet.

Overall, reading about the composers and listening to their music should help you to build up your knowledge of these important developments in music. **Enjoy!**

Baroque Period Composers (1600 to 1750)



This is ***Claudio Monteverdi*** an Italian composer born in 1567. He was a choir master, priest and a very accomplished string player. He was a pioneer of opera, a new musical style that developed in Italy in the early 1600s.

Monteverdi moved to Venice to be *maestro di cappella* at the basilica of San Marco. He lived there until his death in 1643.

Listen to this Madrigal *O Mirtillo, Mirtillo* (a vocal piece written in a polyphonic style)

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=monteverdi+madrigals+youtu#id=1&vid=8a2f9927e8accbdf74b88d903bc751bf&action=view>

Notice how the different voices blend together. You will also notice how different this style of music is to the more lively music examples of some of the other composers of the later Baroque period.

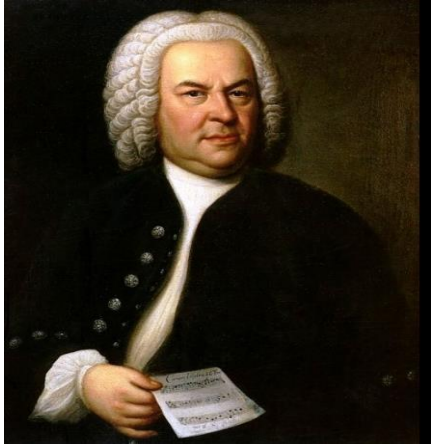
It is important to know that during the 1600s, Venice was perhaps the most important centre in the development of music in Europe. This is one of the reason that most operas are sung in the Italian language and a lot of musical terms are Italian.

Late Baroque Composers



- This is **Antonio Vivaldi**. He was born in Italy in 1678. He was a virtuoso violinist and composed operas and many pieces of music for strings.
- Use this link to watch and listen to a performance of one his most famous pieces:
Spring from the Four Seasons
- <https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=four+seasons+vivaldi+youtube+spring#id=2&vid=c2d7db921f51b6381718a289ea8181aa&action=click>
- Q. Can you find out what type of composition this is?
- Q. As well as the string family, which keyboard instrument is playing the accompaniment part in the background?
- Q. What is the strange looking, guitar-style instrument on the right hand side?
- Fact. The accompaniment part played by these instruments is known as the '*continuo*' part.

Late Baroque Composers continued



This is ***J.S. Bach*** one of the most famous composers of all time.

Born in 1685, Bach wrote over 1000 pieces of music. He had 20 children and some of them including Carl Philipp Emanuel & Johann Cristian also became famous composers.

Listen to this piece ***Air on the G String***

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=j.s.+bach#id=32&vid=a5ae62df53d8a3336182079bb17563f0&action=click>

Q. What is the solo instrument in the centre?

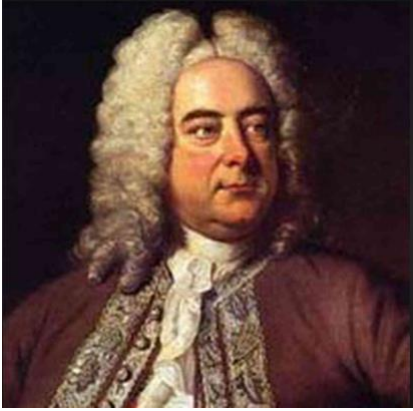
Listen to ***Brandenburg Concerto No.3***

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=brandenburg+concerto#id=15&vid=6318fcaa5d21fdca6bd5c1f62b1271bc&action=click>

Q. How is this a similar composition to Spring by Vivaldi?

Fact: The *Branderburg Concertos* were sent to the Elector of Berlin to show off Bach's skills as a composer. They were never returned to Bach and remained there until they were found in 1870, 120 years after Bach's death in 1750.

Late Baroque Composers continued



This is George Frideric Handel. Along with J.S. Bach he become one of the most important composers during the late Baroque period of music. Handel was born in Germany in 1685 and moved to London in 1712.

Handel became a naturalised British citizen and composed music for the English nobility. Having spent time in Italy, Handel was influenced by early Baroque-style music.

Handel's most famous pieces of music such as *Messiah*, *Water Music*, *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Zadok the Priest** (used for the coronation of George II and all future Monarchs) have become part of British culture.

Listen to *Zadok the Priest (I'm sure some of you will have heard this before)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG2UMO6rZd4>

The video for this is also interesting, as it shows portraits of all of the monarchs from 1066 to the present day. Remember that this music was only used 'from' George II's coronation and for all future monarchs.

Study Activities

- Produce a timeline from 1600 to show when these composers lived. Also, add in any other important composers from the period.
- Design a quiz of 10 questions and answers from the presentation.
- The Baroque period ended about the time three of the most important composers of the period died. Who were they?
- Which period of music preceded the Baroque period which period followed it?
- During the Baroque period the String family was the most prominent – which keyboard instrument was used as a backing for the strings?
- Which new instrument was invented was during the 1700s? It became one of the most important instruments for composers like Ludwig Van Beethoven.
- Once completed upload your work onto school 360.