**THE BAROQUE PERIOD**

**1600-1750**

**WORDS TO KNOW**

baroque

* the word comes from a portuguese term meaning “irregularly shaped pearl”

oratorio

* musical work involving an orchestra and singers, usually telling a story based on a sacred text or theme

concerto

* an ensemble of various instruments and voices playing together, usually with soloists or groups of instruments competing with the larger orchestra

opera

* a staged drama that is mostly sung with an orchestra as accompaniment

fugue

* a composition consisting of imitative counterpoint in which the main idea is stated in each voice at different points in the music

prolific

* to create in large quantities

**INTERESTING FACTS**

* Jean-Baptiste Lully accidentally stabbed his toe with his conducting cane during a performance. It developed Gangrene, but he refused to have his foot amputated and it eventually led to his death.
* It was considered fashionable for men to wear wigs during the Baroque period, and it was known that George Frideric Handel wouldn’t go anywhere in public without wearing his wig.
* The pianoforte was invented by Bartalomeo Cristofori in 1710, which led to the development of the modern-day piano.
* King George II stood up during the first performance of the Hallelujah chorus, and it has become a tradition ever since.
* Johann Sebastian Bach attributed the middle name of is son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, to his friend Philipp Telemann. He even named Telemann as his son’s Godfather.

**COMPOSERS**

**FRANCESCA CACCINI**

1587-1641

* She was the first woman to compose an opera, *La liberazione di Ruggiero;* one of the first operas ever written
* She was a composer, singer, and played five instruments
* She and her family were musicians in the Medici court
* She was hired by the Medici court as a music teacher, composer, and performer

**BARBARA STROZZI**

1619-1677

* She was a singer and prolific composer from Venice, Italy
* She was known for her expressive and articulate lyrics
* She wrote mostly secular vocal music, and only one volume of sacred songs, which was unique for composers of her time
* Her use of harmony was also unique for the time period and sometimes included slow tempos mixed with triple meter

**ISABELLA LEONARDA**

1620-1704

* She entered a convent and became a nun at the age of 16
* She was one of the most prolific convent composers of the Baroque Period and was well known in her home city
* She composed sacred works, such as litanies and masses
* Her sonatas often had a unique structure, such as having 16 movements, which didn’t follow the standard form of the time

**JEAN-BAPTISTE LULLY**

1632-1687

* He is regarded as the founder of French Opera
* He was a dancer as well as a composer
* His friendship with King Louis XIV led to his monopoly over opera productions in France
* He composed instrumental music, ballets, operas, and sacred music

**HENRY PURCELL**

1659-1695

* He was an organist at Westminster Abbey and, after death, was buried next to the organ
* He wrote royal music for special occasions, such as birthdays, marriages, and funerals
* He composed stage music, operas, anthems, sacred, and instrumental music

**ÉLISABETH JACQUET DE LA GUERRE**

1665-1729

* She was a child prodigy and started lessons at a young age
* She performed for King Louis XIV at the age of five
* She was born into a musical family; her father and brothers played the organ and her uncle was an instrument maker
* She was a well-known composer and harpsichordist
* She composed stage, vocal, and instrumental music

**DOMENICO SCARLATTI**

1685-1757

* He was a composer, harpsichordist, and teacher
* He wrote over 550 keyboard sonatas, many of which require great technical skill
* He taught music to the king’s daughter in Lisbon and continued in her service throughout her marriage and move to Madrid

**ARCANGELO CORELLI**

1653-1713

* He was a virtuoso violinist, teacher, and composer
* He is considered the founder of modern violin technique
* He wrote symphonies, sonatas, and concertos
* His playing and teaching style influenced later generations of violinists and violin teachers

**ANTONIO VIVALDI**

1678-1741

* He is probably best known for his violin concertos titled *The Four Seasons*
* He wrote operas, concertos, and sacred music
* He was a composer, violinist, teacher, and priest
* He composed over 500 concertos
* He was nicknamed the “Red Priest” because of his red hair

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**

1685-1750

* He was an organist, violinist, and composer
* He came from a long line of musicians, and two of his sons became composers
* He wasn’t a well-known as a composer during his lifetime, but was later rediscovered later and is now considered one of the best German composers
* He composed toccatas, concertos, oratorios, and chorales

**GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN**

1681-1767

* His mother didn’t want him to become a musician
* He was friends with Handel and was more popular than Bach during his lifetime
* He is one of the most prolific composers in music history
* He composed operas, cantatas, sacred music, and concertos

**GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL**

1685-1759

* He is best known for composing the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *The Messiah*
* He is considered one of the greatest of all German composers and was greatly admired by Beethoven
* His father wanted him to become a lawyer
* He composed operas, oratorios, sonatas, suites, and concertos