

**Grade 11**

# **Western Music**

## **Baroque Period (1685 - 1750)**

## Introduction

The art, music and architecture of the Baroque period had fancy decoration, great deal of ornaments and it was Polyphonic(many sounds) and the style was contrapuntal( a term referred to a composition written in counter point).

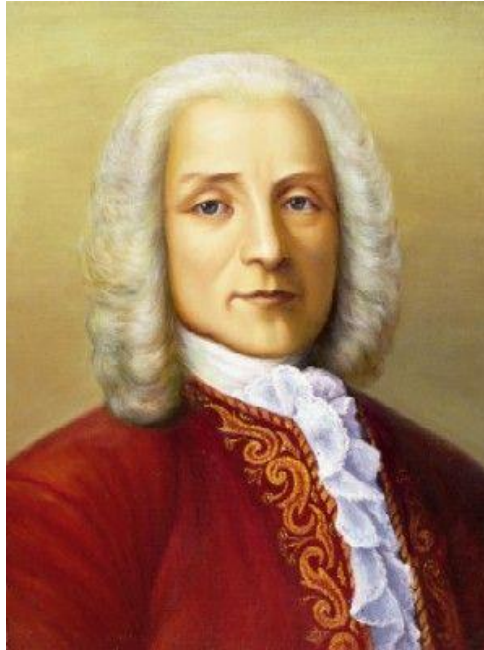
The main composers were

- J.S. Bach
- G.F. Handel
- D. Scarlatti

## Giuseppe Domenico Scarlatti (1685 – 1759) Italian

### About:

- Harpsichordist during the Baroque period



### Main works:

- Scarlatti composed over 500 sonatas for the harpsichord.
- He was also a virtuoso in Harpsichord music.

## Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750) German

### About:

- He hails from a family of seven generations of musicians.
- Organist, harpsichordist, violist, and violinist of the Baroque period.
- His life was divided into 3 main periods namely-  
    Weimar, Cothen, and Leipzig.
- Became blind towards the latter part of his life.



## Main works:

- 6 Brandenburg Concertos
- 48 Preludes & fugues - Known as “The well – Tempered Clavier”
- Church Music – St. John’s Passion
- St. Matthew’s Passion, Christmas Oratorio
- Key Board work - Anna Magdalena Note Book
- Italian Concerto
- Orchestral works – “Air on a G String”
- Harpsichord works – Among his last major works were the “Goldberg” variations for harpsichord.
  
- BWV is the name used to catalogue his works.

## George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759) German



### About:

- Performed as: Harpsichordist, organist, and violinist
- Spent most of his life in London
- Became blind towards the last seven years of his life, but continued to conduct Oratorio performances.

## Main works:

- Oratorio – The Messiah (Hallelujah Chorus which is considered to be the giant of Oratorios.)
- Opera – Rodrigo, Almira and Rinaldo
- “Water music” Suite
- The Harmonious Blacksmith –  
This is the popular name of the final movement, Air and variations, of Handel’s Suite No. 5 in E major



- This is a picture illustration of Handel’s Memorial in Westminster Abbey in London
- He was buried with full honours.