

A History of Western Music 9th Edition

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Chapter

19

German Composers of the Late Baroque



Contexts for Music

- Eighteenth-century German-speaking Europe: hundreds of political entities
 - Louis XIV's example: display power through patronage of the arts
 - Holy Roman emperors, electors of Saxony, King Frederick II of Prussia
 - city governments significant employers
 - aristocratic musicians: performers, composers
 - Johan Ernst, prince of Weimar: violinist
 - Frederick the Great: flutists, composer



Contexts for Music (cont'd)

- Eighteenth-century German-speaking Europe: hundreds of political entities (cont'd)
 - enthusiastic amateur performers, generous patrons
 - English patrons
 - limited power and wealth of monarch
 - musicians earned outside official duties
 - growth of the public concert
 - sale of compositions to publishers
 - set from publisher, full rights to a score
 - no notion of "composer" as a separate career



F19-01



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TIMELINE



TIMELINE

German Composers in the Late Baroque

MUSICAL HISTORICAL

- 1700 Johann Sebastian Bach studies in Lüneburg
- 1703 George Frideric Handel moves to Hamburg
- 1703 Antonio Vivaldi appointed to the Pietà
- 1707 England and Scotland officially unite as Great Britain
- 1708 Bach becomes court organist for duke of Weimar
- 1711 Handel's Rinaldo premiered in London
- 1714 Elector of Hanover crowned George I of England
- 1717 Bach appointed Kapellmeister in Cöthen
- 1722 Jean-Philippe Rameau, Treatise on Harmony

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TIMELINE



- 1722 Bach, The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I
- 1723 Bach becomes civic music director in Leipzig
- 1724 Handel, Giulio Cesare
- 1725 Fux, Gradus ad Parnassum
- 1727–60 Reign of George II of England
- 1727 Bach, St. Matthew Passion
- 1728 John Gay, The Beggar's Opera
- **1730** G. P. Telemann, first six *Paris* Quartets
- 1733 Jean-Philippe Rameau, Hippolyte et Aricie
- 1740 Frederick the Great crowned king in Prussia
- 1741 Handel, Messiah
- 1747 Bach, Musical Offering



Contexts for Music (cont'd)

- Mixed taste: Georg Philipp Telemann
 - German composers trained in more than one style
 - synthesis of traditions, music had broad appeal
 - Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767): paragon of stylistic eclecticism
 - prolific, over 3,000 works; wrote in every genre
 - helped establish characteristic German style, preference for relative simplicity
 - *Paris* Quartets (1730 and 1738)
 - viola da gamba part independent of continuo, role of soloist



F19-02



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Contexts for Music (cont'd)

- Mixed taste: Georg Philipp Telemann (cont'd)
 - Concerto Primo (First Concerto, NAWM 99)
 - mixture of French and Italian forms
 - German counterpoint
 - pleased varied tastes: good amateur, middle-level professional
 - he was his own publisher in Hamburg
 - issued first music periodical in Germany, *Der getreue Music-Meister* (the True Music-Master)

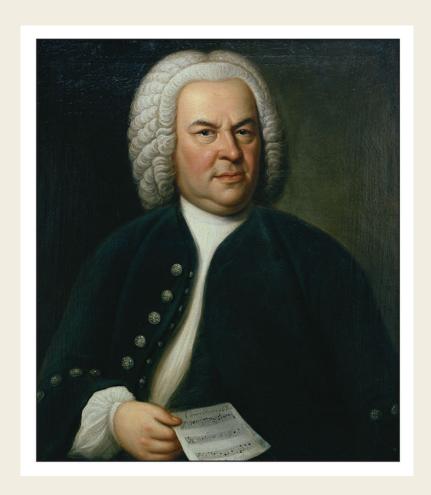


Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

- Pinnacle of composers of all time in the Western tradition
 - virtuoso organists and keyboard player, skilled violinist, prolific composer
 - born in Eisenach, Germany
 - came from large family of musicians
 - first positions as church organist, Arnstadt, 1703; Mühlhausen, 1707
 - married twice: Maria Barbara Bach, seven children;
 Anna Magdalena Wilcke, thirteen children



F19-03



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- Pinnacle of composers of all time in the Western tradition (cont'd)
 - 1708: court musician for duke of Weimar
 - 1717: Kapellmeister at court of Prince Leopold of Anhalt in Cöthen
 - Leipzig: cantor of the St. Thomas School, civic music director



- Pinnacle of composers of all time in the Western tradition (cont'd)
 - BWV for Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (Bach Works Catalogue)
 - major works: St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, Mass in B Minor, 200 church cantatas, twenty secular cantatas, 200 organ chorales and seventy other works for organ, Brandenburg Concertos, The Well-Tempered Clavier, Clavier-Übung, Musical Offering, The Art of Fugue, numerous other keyboard, ensemble, orchestral, and sacred compositions



■ Bach at work

- composed to fulfill needs of positions held:
 - church organist at Arnstadt, Mühlhausen: composed mostly for organ
 - concertmaster at Weimar: cantatas
 - music director at Cöthen: solo or ensemble music; some pedagogical works
 - Leipzig, four churches: cantatas and other church music
 - Leipzig collegium musicum: concertos and chamber works



- Bach at work (cont'd)
 - the position of musicians
 - not free agents, subject to their employers' wishes
 - position at Cöthen, Bach imprisoned by duke of Weimar
 - Leipzig employee of the town council: not to leave town without permission from the mayor
 - conditions in Leipzig
 - multiple demands on musicians



■ Bach at work (cont'd)

- Bach's position at St. Thomas's School:
 - teach Latin and music four hours a day
 - compose, copy, and rehearse music for church services
 - directed top choir, supervised other three
 - trained best students on instruments; directed church instrumental ensemble
 - composed one major work for church each week
 - provided music for town ceremonies and at the university
 - composed for weddings, funerals, other special occasions



- Bach at work (cont'd)
 - compositional process
 - copied or arranged music of other composers
 - composed away from the keyboard
 - invented principal theme or subject, elaborated using established conventions
 - working with text: wrote vocal melody first, fit accentuation and meaning of the words
 - continually made small revisions
 - frequently reworked his own existing pieces



F19-04



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Organ music

- genres used in Lutheran services
 - chorale settings, toccatas, fantasias, preludes, fugues
 - acquainted with organ music by north Germans, southern Germans, Italians, and French
 - personal and distinctive style: prolific imagination, mastery of counterpoint, assured virtuosity, extensive use of pedals
 - renowned as an improviser



- Organ music (cont'd)
 - Vivaldi's influence
 - Bach arranged several Vivaldi concertos for organ or harpsichord solo
 - concise themes, clarify harmonic scheme, develop subjects, ritornello
 - Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWM 543 (NAWM 100)
 - violinistic figuration in the prelude
 - fugue subject: rapid oscillation between repeated note and moving line
 - form resembles concerto fast movement



Organ music (cont'd)

- fugue subject functions like a ritornello
- episodes, character of concerto solo sections
- chorale settings
 - over 200 chorale settings, all known types
 - Orgelbüchlein (Little Organ Book): forty-five short chorale preludes
 - introductions before congregation sang
 - pedagogical aim, guidance to technique and improvisation



Ex19-01





Ex19-02





- Organ music (cont'd)
 - settings vary greatly
 - Durch Adams Fall (Through Adam's Fall), BWV 637 (NAWM 101)
 - visual images through musical figurations
 - later organ chorales
 - grander proportions
 - extensive musical development of ideas



- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre
 - suites
 - three sets of six: *English Suites*, *French Suites*, Partitas
 - "French" and "English" not Bach's designation
 - standard four-dance movements, additional short movements follow the sarabande
 - The Well-Tempered Clavier (1722 and ca. 1740)



- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre (cont'd)
 - each book consists of twenty-four prelude and fugue pairs in each major and minor key
 - arranged in rising chromatic order
 - demonstrate possibilities of playing in all keys, nearequal temperament
 - Prelude in E-flat Minor and Fugue in D-sharp Minor, Book I (NAWM 102)



- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre (cont'd)
 - most triads out of tune in mean-tone temperament
 - preludes: pedagogical aims
 - specific technical tasks, function as etudes
 - various keyboard performance conventions, compositional practices
 - fugues: two to five voices
 - from archaic ricercare to up-to-date style
 - Fugue No. 8 in D-sharp Minor, Book I (NAWM 102b): inversion, augmentation, stretto



- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre (cont'd)
 - Goldberg Variations (1741)
 - thirty variations, preserve bass and harmonic structure of the theme
 - every third variation is a canon
 - first at interval of unison, second at a 2nd, and so on
 - noncanonic variations: fugue, French overture, slow aria, bravura pieces



- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre (cont'd)
 - most technically demanding keyboard work composed before the nineteenth century
 - Musical Offering
 - three-and six-part ricercare for keyboard and ten canons
 - theme proposed by Frederick the Great
 - added trio sonata for flute, violin, and continuo
 - dedicated to the king



Ex19-03





Ex19-04





- Harpsichord music: masterpieces in every current genre (cont'd)
 - The Art of Fugue
 - systematic, comprehensive approach
 - demonstrates all types of fugal writing
 - written in score, intended for keyboard performance
 - eighteen canons and fugues in the strictest style
 - last fugue has four subjects; one spells Bach's name:
 B-flat—A—C—B-natural



Chamber music

- fifteen sonatas for solo instruments and harpsichord
 - six each for violin and flute, three for viola da gamba
 - most have four movements: slow-fast-slow-fast
 - right-hand harpsichord part in counterpoint with other instrument
- works for unaccompanied instruments
 - six sonatas and partitas for violin, six suites for cello, partita for solo flute
 - illusion of harmonic and contrapuntal texture



Orchestral music

- *Brandenburg Concertos*, dedicated in 1721 to the Margrave of Brandenburg
 - from Italian concerto
 - all but first in three-movement fast-slow-fast order
 - triadic themes, steady driving rhythms, ritornello forms
 - expanded on Italian model
 - more ritornello material into the episodes
 - dialogue between soloists and orchestra within episodes
 - long cadenza for harpsichord in the Fifth Concerto



- Orchestral music (cont'd)
 - Collegium musicum, Leipzig 1730s
 - mostly university students; presented public concerts
 - arranged concertos for one or more harpsichords and orchestra
 - four orchestral suites, balance of Italian and French influences

Cantatas

• new church cantata; Erdmann Neumeister (1671–1756) added poetic texts



F19-05





Cantatas (Cont'd)

- intended as recitatives, arias, ariosos
- traditions of the past: chorale, solo song, concertato medium
- powerful elements of operatic recitative and aria
- role in church services; two main churches in Leipzig: St. Nicholas, St. Thomas
 - cantata on alternate Sundays
 - soloist and two or three ripienists
 - small orchestra: strings with continuo, two or three oboes, one or two bassoons
 - sometimes flutes
 - trumpets and timpani on festive occasions



- Cantatas (cont'd)
 - cantata cycles
 - fifty-eight cantatas each year for the Leipzig churches
 - 1723–1729, Bach composed at least three complete annual cycles
 - approximately 200 church cantatas preserved
 - twenty secular cantatas from Weimar, Cöthen, Leipzig
 - Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 62 (1724) (NAWM 103)
 - second cycle for Leipzig, cantatas based on chorales



F19-06





Cantatas (cont'd)

- mixture of secular and sacred models; old-style counterpoint and cantus firmus with modern Italianate style
- opening chorus based on chorale melody
 - ingenious mixture of genres: concerto and chorale motet
 - chorale as cantus firmus in the bass
 - ritornello serves as frame, recurs three times
 - chorale in chorus, four phrases, cantus-firmus style
 - soprano melody, imitative counterpoint in other parts, orchestra develops ritornello motives



Cantatas (cont'd)

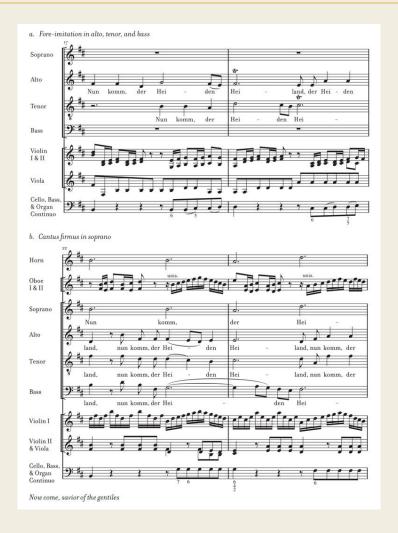
- recitatives and arias in operatic style for soloists
 - da capo aria for tenor, minuet style
 - recitative and aria for bass; word-painting
 - soprano and alto join in accompanied recitative
- ended with simple four-part harmonization of the chorale

Other church music

- motets, Passions, and Latin service music
- Passions: Vespers on Good Friday in Leipzig
 - St. John Passion (1724, later revised); St. Matthew Passion (1727, revised 1736)



Ex19-05



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- Other church music (cont'd)
 - recitatives, arias, ensembles, choruses, chorales sung by the chorus, orchestral accompaniment
 - elements of opera, cantata, oratorios
 - tenor narrates biblical story in recitative
 - soloists play parts of Jesus and other figures
 - chorus comments on events
 - St. Matthew Passion (NAWM 104)
 - judgment of Jesus' guilt
 - ends with anger: short, agitated choruses, rapid imitative entrances
 - contemplative chorale expressing reactions of the congregation



Other church music (cont'd)

- disciple Peter's denials
 - simple narration, highly expressive recitative
 - Peter's remorse: moving aria
 - chorale expresses confidence of God's grace

Mass in B Minor

- drew from music he had composed earlier
- adapted sections from cantata movements
- newly composed sections: stile antico and modern styles
- juxtaposed contrasting styles throughout the work



- Bach's synthesis
 - all genres, styles, and forms absorbed into his works
 - contemporaries preferred less complex, more tuneful music
 - music rediscovered, enormous popularity in the nineteenth century



- Recognized since his time as one of the greatest composers of his era
 - born in Halle, Germany
 - education in organ, harpsichord, counterpoint, current German and Italian idioms
 - 1703–6: violinist in opera house orchestra, Hamburg opera house
 - 1707–11: travel to Italy; recognition as composer



F19-07





- Recognized since his time as one of the greatest composers of his era (cont'd)
 - London: served aristocratic patrons, support of British royal family
 - ranked as of the most revered public figures in London



- Recognized since his time as one of the greatest composers of his era (cont'd)
 - major works: *Messiah*, *Saul*, *Samson*, *Israel in Egypt*, about twenty other oratorios, *Giulio Cesare* and forty other Italian operas, about 100 Italian cantatas, forty-five concertos, twenty trio sonatas, twenty solo sonatas, numerous keyboard pieces, *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*



Handel and his patrons

- patrons determined compositions
 - support allowed freedom to write for the public
- Italy, Marquis Francesco Ruspoli: Latin motets, cantatas
- Hanover, court music director: established himself in London, Italian opera
- British monarchs, Queen Anne: ceremonial choral works
 - sizable income, minimal responsibilities
 - honorary appointment, composer to the Chapel Royal



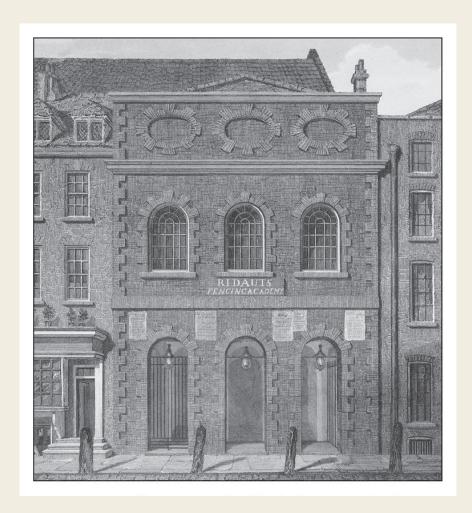
- Handel and his patrons (cont'd)
 - most activities were in the public sphere
- Operas
 - international style: *Almira* (1705), premiered in Hamburg
 - arias in Italian, recitatives in German
 - overture and dance music, French models
 - arias in Italian manner, German counterpoint and orchestration



- Operas (cont'd)
 - London operas
 - Rinaldo (1711), first Italian opera in London
 - established public reputation in England
 - 1710s, Handel opera staged every season
 - 1718–19, Royal Academy of Music
 - joint stock company, produced Italian operas
 - Handel engaged as music director
 - 1720–28, some of Handel's best operas



F19-08





- Operas (cont'd)
 - recitative styles
 - recitativo secco (dry recitative): basso continuo, speechlike
 - recitativo accompagnato (accompanied recitative):
 - orchestral outbursts dramatize tense situations
 - rapid changes of emotion, punctuated by orchestra
 - lyrical arias
 - solo da capo: single specific mood or affection
 - allocated by importance of cast members



Operas (cont'd)

- prima donna ("first lady"), leading soprano role, most and best arias
- Handel wrote for specific singers
- wide variety of aria types
 - coloratura: brilliant displays, florid ornamentation
 - expressive pathetic songs
 - regal grandeur, rich contrapuntal and concertato accompaniments
 - pastoral scenes: nature painting



- Operas (cont'd)
 - instrumental sections
 - sinfonias mark key moments
 - a few operas include ballets
 - fuller orchestra, more use of winds
 - choruses and larger vocal ensembles are rare
 - scene complexes
 - recitative freely combined with arias, ariosos, and orchestral passages



Operas (cont'd)

- Giulio Cesare, Act II scenes 1 and 2 (NAWM 105)
 - opens with dialogue in simple recitative
 - Cleopatra's da capo aria interwoven with other elements
 - combination of national elements also present
- Handel as impresario
 - Royal Academy dissolved in 1729
 - Handel and a partner took over the theater, formed new company
 - competing companies, divided the London public



Ex19-06





Oratorios

- English oratorio, 1730s new genre
 - Italian tradition: dialogue in recitative, lyrical verses in arias
 - elements foreign to Italian opera:
 - French classical drama
 - ancient Greek tragedy
 - German Passion
 - English masque and full anthem
 - oratorios featured in theaters



Oratorios (cont'd)

- *Esther*, premiered at King's Theatre, 1732
- no staging or costumes, less expensive to produce, profitable
- use of chorus
 - influenced by English choral tradition
 - variety of roles: participating in the action, narrating the story, commenting on events
 - emphasis on communal expression



- Oratorios (cont'd)
 - *Saul* (1739)
 - libretto by Charles Jennens
 - closing scene of Act II (NAWM 106)
 - blending of genres
 - accompanied recitative in martial style (NAWM 106a)
 - chorus reflects on morality, *O fatal Consequence of Rage* (NAWM 106c)
 - rhetorical figures convey meaning of text



Ex19-07





- Oratorios (cont'd)
 - *Messiah* (1741)
 - libretto by Charles Jennens
 - series of contemplations on Christian ideal of redemption
 - texts from the Bible: Old Testament prophecies, through life of Christ to his resurrection
 - mixture of traditions in the music
 - French overture



F19-09





Oratorios (cont'd)

- Italianate recitatives and da capo arias
- Germanic choral fugues
- English choral anthem style

librettos

- Messiah advertised as "sacred entertainment"
- Bible and Apocryphal books well known to middle class
- Handel's oratorios based on Old Testament
 - English audiences felt kinship with ancient Israelites



- Oratorios (cont'd)
 - borrowing
 - common practice at the time
 - borrowing, transcribing, adapting, arranging, parodying
 - Handel borrowed from others or reused his own music
- Instrumental works
 - much of his instrumental music was published in London
 - extra income, kept name before the public



Ex19-08





- Instrumental works (cont'd)
 - two collections of harpsichord suites, twenty solo sonatas, trio sonatas for various instruments
 - works show Corelli's influence; harmonies reflect later
 Italian style
 - ensemble suites
 - *Water Music* (1717)
 - three suites for winds and strings
 - royal procession on River Thames



■ Instrumental works (cont'd)

- Music for the Royal Fireworks (1749)
 - for winds, celebrated Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle

concertos

- six Concerti Grossi, Op. 3 (published 1734)
 - feature woodwind and string soloists
- invented concerto for organ and orchestra
 - performed during intermissions of his oratorios
 - published in three sets (1738, 1740, and 1761)



F19-10





- Instrumental works (cont'd)
 - Twelve Grand Concertos, Op. 6 (1739)
 - reflect traditions of Corelli
 - full contrapuntal texture of former style

■ Handel's reputation

- Handel became a British citizen, 1727
 - wrote all his major works for British audiences
 - buried with public honors in Westminster Abbey
- broad, lasting appeal of oratorios
 - earliest pieces by any composer to enjoy unbroken tradition of performance to the present



An Enduring Legacy

- Only a few of Bach's pieces published during his lifetime
 - music known to core musicians and connoisseurs
 - fuller discovery of Bach in the nineteenth century
 - Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms emulated Bach
- Handel: first composer to attain permanent place in the performing repertory
 - some of his oratorios have been performed continually since they were written

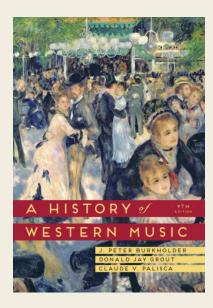


An Enduring Legacy (cont'd)

- Handel: first composer to attain permanent place in the performing repertory (cont'd)
 - orchestral suites and concertos revived, gaining popularity



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This concludes the Lecture Slide Set for Chapter 19

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