

Baroque Period (1600-1750)

1. A. Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Vivaldi was born in Italy and under his father's musical training when he was very young. Because of his religious background and his red hair, he was known as "The Red Priest". He taught the violin and conducted at a music school for orphaned or illegitimate girls. He became famous and influential as a virtuoso violinist and a composer. Vivaldi composed operas and fine church music but he was best known for his concerti grossi and solo concertos. He exploited the resources of the violin as well as other instruments.

Excerpt: *Summer*, from violin concerto *Four Seasons*, 1st movement



This work is written for a solo violin and an accompanied orchestra. The music starts with a (a) slow / quick section and then followed by a (b) slow / quick section of solo violin passage.

2. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Bach was a German composer and organist who was believed as the supreme Baroque composer. He received his first musical training from his father and sang in church choir when he was young. He became a church organist when he was eighteen and then became a concertmaster of a court orchestra. He taught, conducted and composed throughout his life. Bach wrote a variety of works including instrumental music, such as concerti grossi, and vocal music, such as cantata. He explored with a system of tuning that was being developed at that time and made it possible for composing in all twenty-four keys. He used every major and minor key in his collection *The Well-Tempered Clavier* which now becomes a basic repertoire of keyboard players.

Excerpt: *Prelude in C*, from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*

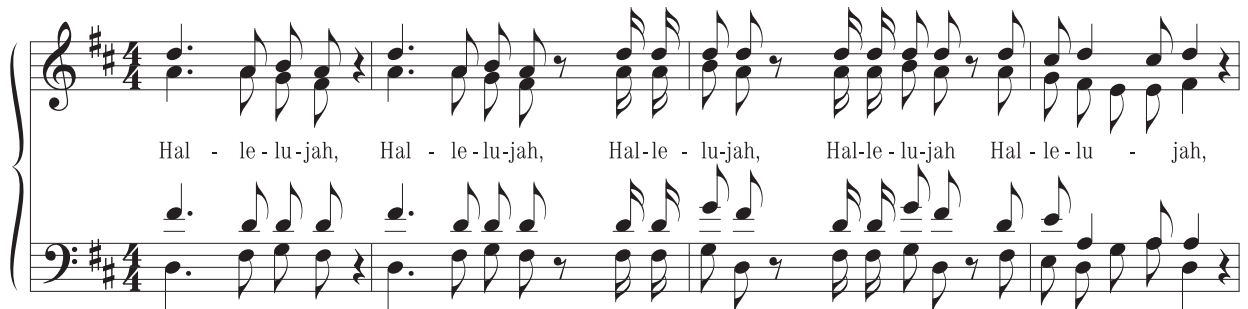


This music is written for a keyboard instrument such as the harpsichord and the organ. The excerpt is played by a/an _____.

3. G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Handel was born in Germany, one month before J. S. Bach. He did not come from a musical family but his musical talent was shown when he was very young. He was able to compose and gave organ lessons by the age of eleven. Handel had ever studied law in the university but he finally left for producing his operas. He went to Italy to establish his career and wrote Italian operas. Later on, his fame in England grew and became England's most important composer. Handel wrote a great deal of instrumental music, such as suites, organ concertos and concerti grossi. He also wrote English oratorios and Italian operas.

Excerpt: *Hallelujah* chorus, from the oratorio *Messiah*



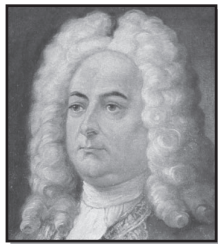
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah Hal - le - lu - jah,

Messiah is one of Handel's famous works. It was written and firstly performed in London. *Hallelujah* is at the end of the second part. When it was first performed, King George II rose to his feet and remained standing when the first notes of the triumphant *Hallelujah* chorus rang out. It becomes a common practice nowadays for the audience to stand for this performance.

(a) Write down the instruments that you hear in this excerpt.

(b) List the voices that you hear in this excerpt.

Search more information about the above composers. Now, match the above composers with the portraits below. Write down their names under the portraits.



(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____