## Baroque Vocal Music

1600-1750

### Concept | Definition
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**Accompanied** | One or more instruments support the melody
**Unaccompanied** | No instruments support the melody
**Unison** | Two or more people sing the same line. (also applies to instruments).
**Single Line** | One musical part
**Harmony** | Two or more parts performing different notes
**A capella** | A cappella is Italian for "in the style of the chapel". Vocal music with no accompaniment.
**Vibrato** | The singer makes the note they are singing waver in pitch very slightly bringing warmth to the tone of their voice.
**Register** | How high or low a voice is
**Syllabic**<br>(word setting) | Where each syllable has a new note
**Melismatic**<br>(word setting) | Where each syllable has many notes

### Voice Types

There are several types of voice which you must be able to identify at 'Higher' standard.

**Female Voices**
- Soprano
- Mezzo Soprano
- Contralto

**Male Voices**
- Counter Tenor
- Tenor
- Baritone
- Bass

### Recitative

- Sung speech
- Often before an aria
- Chordal accompaniment
- Used to move the story along
- Contains the Basso Continuo

### Aria

- A song for solo voice
- Accompanied by orchestra
- Beautiful melody
- Contains the Basso Continuo
Da Capo Aria

Sometimes the accompaniment for this had a solo instrument line that acted as a foil to the voice. This line became known as the obbligato.

Here is a detailed plan of a da capo aria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Instrumental Intro: First vocal solo, beginning and ending in the tonic key; instrumental postlude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Second vocal solo: In a different key with modulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>as A1, perhaps without the instrumental intro.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chorus

- A group of singers
- Each part has several singers
- SATB Choir
- Often accompanied by orchestra
- Contains the Basso Continuo

Oratorio

- Story from the Bible set to music
- No costumes or scenery
- In English
- Accompanied by an orchestra
- Can include
  - Recitative
  - Aria
  - Duet
  - Chorus

Cantata

- A small scale Oratorio
- Story from the Bible set to music
- No costumes or scenery
- In German
- Accompanied by an orchestra
- Can include
  - Recitative
  - Aria
  - Duet
  - Chorus/Chorale
Passion

- A type of Oratorio which is based on the Crucifixion of Christ
- Story from the Bible set to music
- No costumes or scenery
- In German
- Accompanied by an orchestra
- Can include Recitative, Aria, Duet, Chorus/Chorale

Chorale

- A German hymn tune.
- It is written in four parts for Soprano, Tenor, Contralto, Bass
- Some of these chorales were used by Bach in his oratorios and cantatas and are usually Homophonic in texture.
- Music which is sung by the congregation at a church service

Opera

- A secular drama set to music which is performed on a stage in a theatre
- No spoken dialogue
- Singers have trained voices.
- Costumes and Scenery
- Music includes Recitative, Aria, Duet, Chorus

Mass

- Originally used in church worship
- Based on the text of the Roman Catholic Eucharist
- In Latin
- Large-scale work for chorus and soloists, accompanied by the orchestra
- In the Baroque era, a Basso Continuo would be present

  Benedictus  Sanctus  Kyrie  Agnus Dei  Credo  Gloria

  “Badgers Sometimes Kiss And Cuddle Giraffes”