

Mass

Different types of Mass include:

- *Missa Brevis* – short mass
- *Requiem Mass* – mass for the dead

A typical mass has 5 main ('Ordinary') sections:

- ***Kyrie, eleison, Christe eleison*** – *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*
- ***Gloria in excelsis Deo*** – *Glory to God in the highest*
- ***Credo in unum deum*** – *I believe in one God*
- ***Sanctus, Hosanna, Benedictus*** – *Holy, Hosanna, Blessed in he*
- ***Agnus Dei*** – *Lamb of God*

In Requiem masses, the following texts can also be included:

- *Requiem aeternam* – *eternal rest*
- *Lux Aeterna* – *eternal light*
- *Pie Jesu, Dona eis requiem* – *merciful Jesus, grant them rest*
- *Libera Me* – *sung at the burial site before interment*
- *In Paradisum* – *trad. Sung as body leaves the church. It means 'Into Paradise'*
- *Dies Irae* – *means 'Day of Wrath'*

The Mass started in the Renaissance period, usually a cappella, but has continued throughout the musical periods from Baroque through to Twentieth Century, usually with orchestral accompaniment. Not all masses have been composed for church services-some were composed as concert pieces.

Baroque characteristics

The continuo (or basso continuo) part was usually played on the **harpsichord** or **organ**. The instruments were used in the harmonies and for holding the ensemble together. The bassline was often played by the cello or bassoon.

The Baroque orchestra was relatively small (a small orchestra is known as a chamber orchestra). The orchestra was still evolving during the Baroque period. At first there were no set instruments, but as the 17th century progressed, the orchestra began to take shape.

Baroque orchestra instruments usually included:

- Mainly strings - violins, violas, cellos and double basses (*replaced the viols*)
- woodwind - recorders or wooden flutes, oboes and bassoon
- brass - sometimes trumpets and/or horns (without valves)
- timpani
- Basso continuo - harpsichord or organ

Musical characteristics of Baroque music

- the use of **harpsichord basso continuo** provides foundation, providing a strong, purposeful bass that causes the music to press forward throughout.
- Modes now replaced by **major-minor keys**
- **long flowing melodic lines** often using **ornamentation** (decorative notes such as trills and turns)
- Lots of **contrapuntal textures** contrasting with homophonic passages
- Contrast between loud and soft created by **contrasting solo and ensemble**
- **Terraced dynamics** - sudden changes in the volume level, sometimes creating an echo effect

Main styles of music

Vocal

Opera, Oratorio, Cantata

Instrumental

Solo concerto, Concerto grosso

Chorale, Recitative, Aria, Choruses

Overture, Dance Suite, Trio sonata

Toccata, Fugue, Chorale prelude

Main forms/ structure

- *Binary*
- *Ternary (including da capo aria)*
- *Variations on ground bass (Passacaglia, Chaconne)*
- *Ritornello*
- *Fugue*

Baroque period

- Kyrie – Mass in B minor (Bach)

Points to think about

- *Overall texture*
- *Tonality – can you name the cadence at the end of bar 4?*
- *What instruments are in the orchestra?*

Watch it here:

Fill in what you hear in the categories below

Style	Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

Credo—Mass in B minor (Bach)

NB Based on a ground bass



Points to think about:

- *Introduction – what instruments play? What are they playing? Instrument(s) playing ground bass?*
- *Describe the ground bass*
- *Four voices enter – what order? What texture?*
- *Tonality of music and how does it end?*

Watch it here:

Style	Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

Baroque period

Now listen to 2 Glorias (Bach Mass in Bm and Vivaldi Gloria) and make a comparison of the two. Use the first table to jot down concepts you hear in each (*ie like part a) of question 6*) and use the second table to make a more detailed analysis

ROUGH WORK

For each excerpt identify at least two prominent concepts in each of the following categories

- Melody/harmony
- Rhythm/texture/structure/form/timbre

Categories	Excerpt 1	Excerpt 2
Melody/harmony		
Rhythm/texture/structure/form/timbre		

(i) Analysis

Comment on six similarities/differences you hear in the excerpts.
Your final answer should be a written description of what you have heard and not simply a list of similarities/differences.

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(ii) Conclusion

Write a statement on the style/period of each excerpt and justify your answer.

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