Baroque Period

It was during the Baroque period that the orchestra first began to take shape. Here are some typical features of the Baroque Orchestra.

- A firm basis of **strings** to which composers would add other instruments: one or two **flutes** (or recorders), **oboes, bassoons**, perhaps **horns**, **trumpets and timpani.**

- The sound of **organ or harpsichord BASSO CONTINUO**– a bass line in which the player was expected to fill in the harmonies. Sometimes figures were written under the bass line indicating the chords the composer would like played. This was called figured bass.

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 polyphonic **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

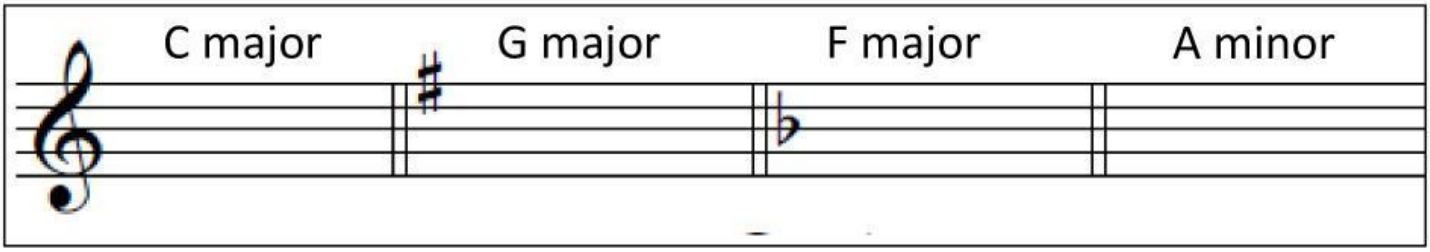
Vocal	**Instrumental**
Opera, Oratorio, Mass	*Solo concerto, Concerto grosso*
Recitative, Aria, Choruses	*Sonata, Passacaglia*

Main **forms/ structure**

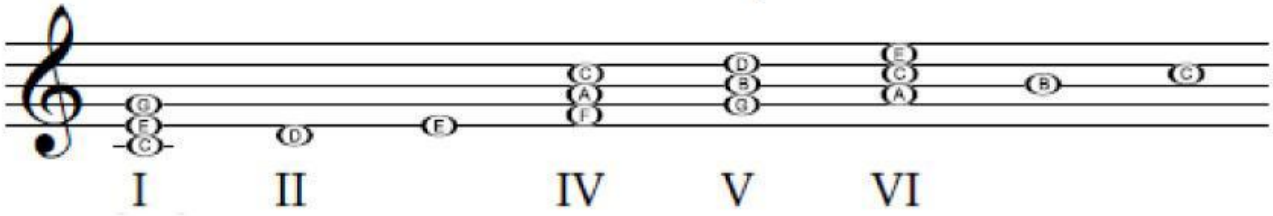
- *Binary (A B form or AA BB)*
- *Ternary (including da capo aria) – A B A or AA B AA*
- *Variations on ground bass (Passacaglia)*
- *Ritornello (recurring theme)*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Key signatures & Chords for Higher

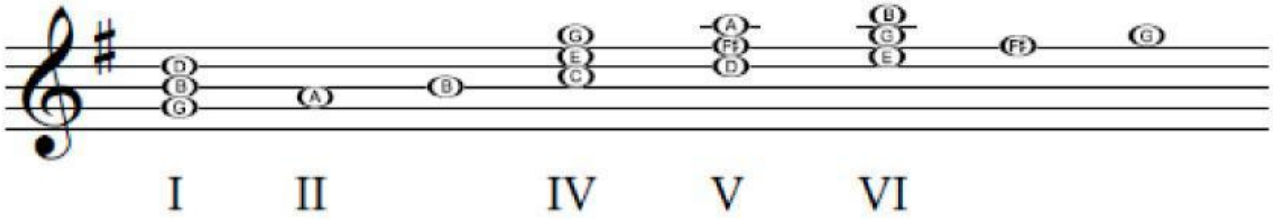


C major



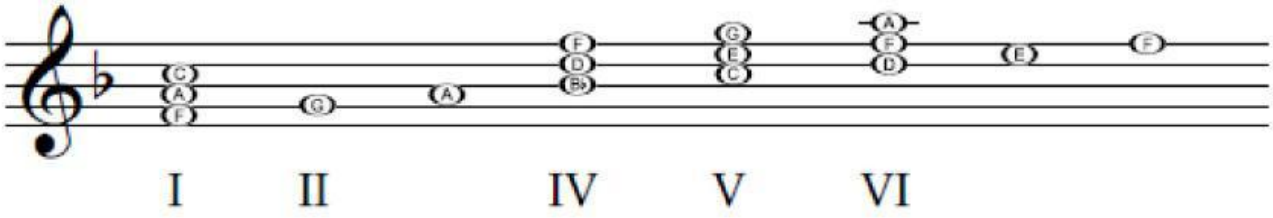
TONIC SUB DOM DOMINANT

G major



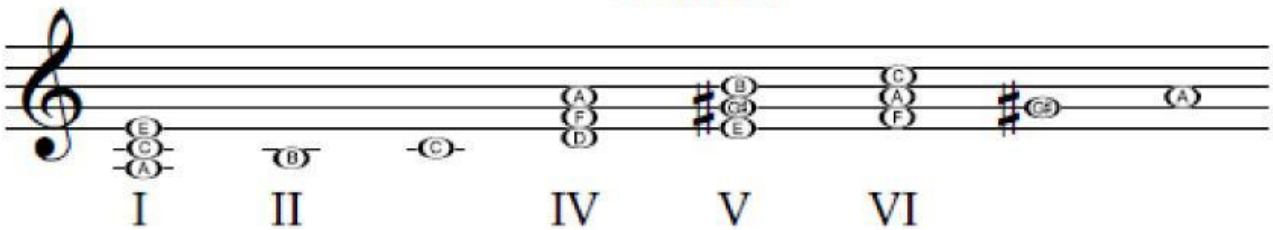
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F major



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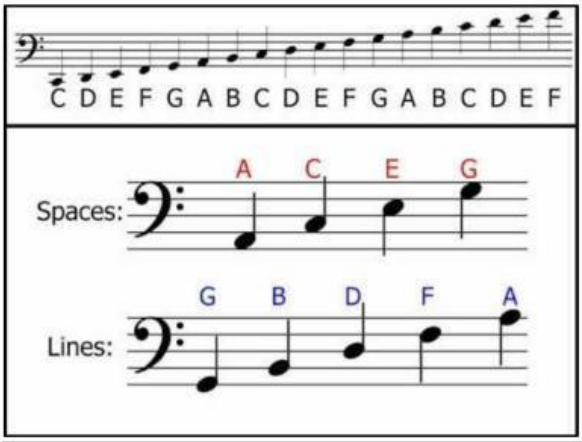
A minor



TONIC SUB DOM DOMINANT

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Bass clef notes



For additional practice on bass clef notes click HERE
https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/neoyqyo1r54ynyynyy

https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/ng1yqyo1r54ynyynyy

https://4four.io/start/Ar5pj

https://4four.io/start/A3e6p

Cadences

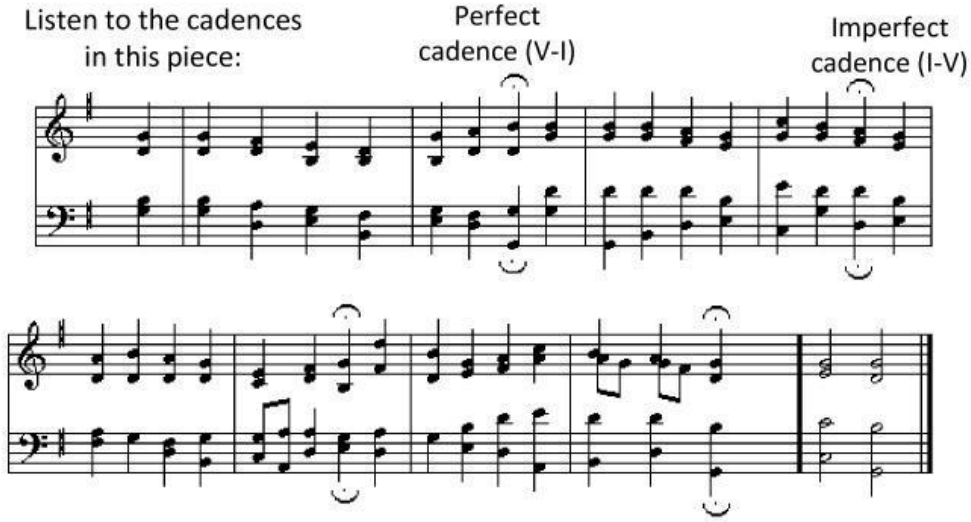
Cadence quizzes
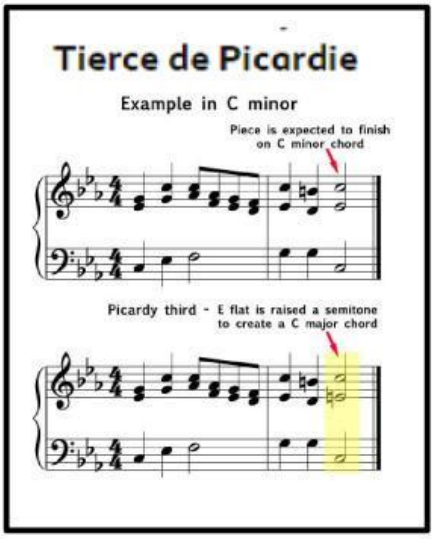
A **cadence** is formed by two chords at the end of a passage of music.

- **Perfect cadences** sound as though the music has come to an end. A perfect cadence is formed by the chords V - I.
- **Interrupted cadences** are 'surprise' cadences. You think you're going to hear a perfect cadence, but you get a minor chord instead.
- **Imperfect cadences** sound unfinished. They sound as though they want to carry on to complete the music properly. An imperfect cadence ends on chord V.
- **Plagal cadences** sound finished. Plagal cadences are often used at the end of hymns and sung to "Amen". A plagal cadence is formed by the chords IV - I.

Sometimes the final cadence of a piece in a minor key ends with a major chord instead of the expected minor. This effect is known as a **Tierce de Picardie**.

Listen to the cadences in this piece:





LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEXTURE

UNISON
Everyone plays or sings the same notes at the same time, either at the same pitch or in octaves.

HOMOPHONIC
A melody with accompaniment or chords, where all parts largely move together in harmony

POLYPHONIC/ CONTRAPUNTAL
Two or more melodic lines that interweave and create a more complex texture. There is often **IMITATION**.

A CAPPELLA
Voices singing with no instrumental accompaniment

UNISON



HOMOPHONIC

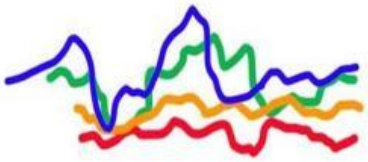
- chordal



- melody with accomp.



POLYPHONIC/ CONTRAPUNTAL



- *Listen to unison, homophonic and polyphonic textures in Handel's Hallelujah Chorus* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbT7eTS16T8
- *Try the texture quizzes here:* https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n5_texture_quiz.htm

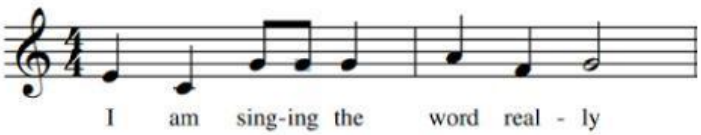
- Listen to the following extracts of vocal music from and complete the box below. Put a tick in the relevant columns.

	VOCAL TEXTURES			ACCOMPANIMENT	
	UNISON	HOMOPHONIC	POLYPHONIC	ACCOMPANIED	A CAPPELLA
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

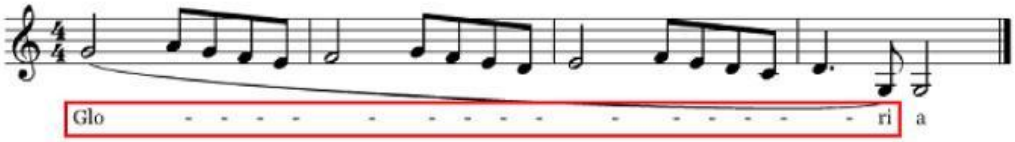
LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORD SETTING

SYLLABIC
Mainly one syllable per note.
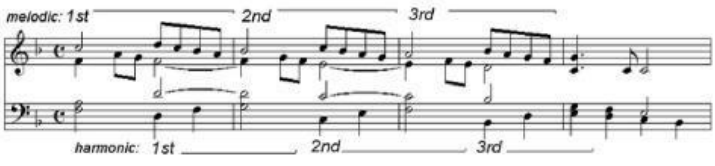


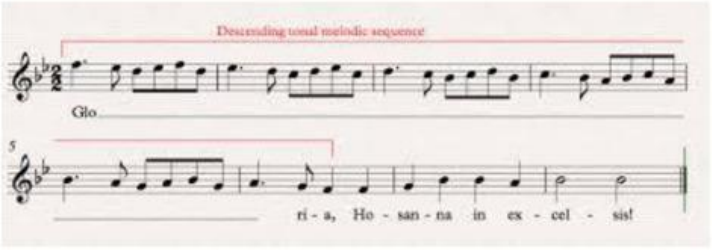
MELISMATIC
Lots of notes to one syllable.



- Test yourself on melismatic/ syllabic word setting
  https://www.liveworksheets.com/w/en/music/1608185

SEQUENCE
A pattern of notes repeated at a higher or lower pitch





- Test yourself on sequence
  https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n3_sequence.htm

ANACRUSIS
An upbeat at the start of a piece/ phrase



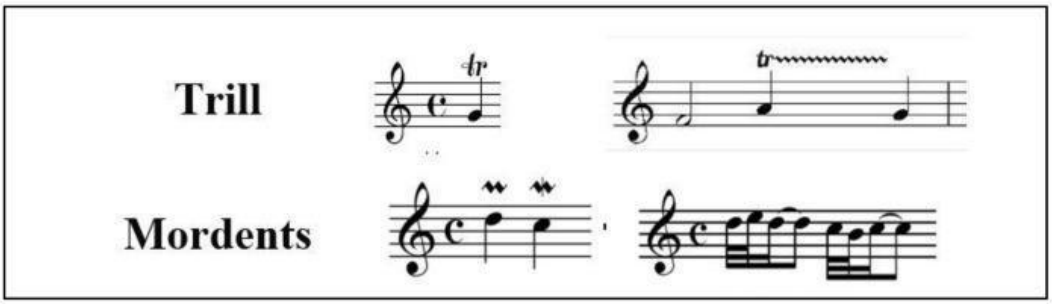
- Test yourself on ANACRUSIS
  https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n4_anacrusis.htm
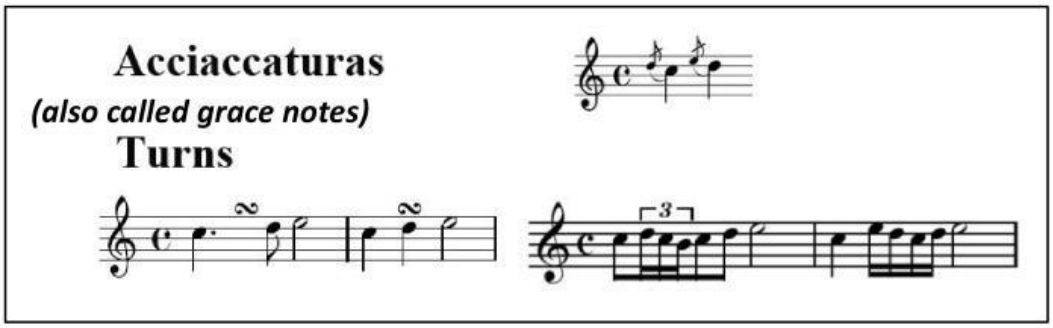
LIVEWORKSHEETS

ORNAMENTATION

These all come under the category of MELODIC concepts. Ornaments are "frills" or embellishments made on notes. Baroque music used a lot of ornaments, so it is important to be able to recognise them.

An ornament is basically a historic shorthand method of indicating how a single note can be made more interesting. The ornaments you need to know for Higher are:





1. **Trill** - a rapid shake between an added note and the main note
2. **Mordent** - a single movement from the main note then down or up then back to the main note
3. **Acciaccatura (grace note)** - a quick movement from an unaccented added note to the main note
4. **Turn** - a quick movement around a note, usually up, down and up again (the note, the note above, the note, the note below, and the note)

Try the following quiz: https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_higher_ornaments_1.htm

LIVEWORKSHEETS