

Bach Glossary



Dynamics **Rhythm** **Tonality** **Structure** **Melody** **Instrumentation**
Texture **Harmony**

Keyword	What is the definition? How does it sound?
Baroque Period	1600-1750
Concerto Grosso	Literally 'Large Concerto'. A piece with a group of soloists and a string orchestra with a continuo part as well.
Concertino	The soloists in a concerto grosso. Usually 2 violins, in this case a violin, the flute and the harpsicord
Ripieno	The accompanying section in a concerto grosso Usually a string section with a continuo part (a harpsichord and one or more bass instruments)
Ornaments	Melodic decorations, to develop the melody and make it more interesting
Sequence	Common Baroque device, when a short ostinato is repeated moving it up or down each time.
Ternary Form	A-B-A structure. Common in Baroque and classical era.
Polyphonic/ Contrapuntal	A texture with multiple independent 'lines' or melodies
Fugal	Special type of polyphony that uses imitation. Involves a 'Subject' 'Answer' and 'counter subject'
The subject & answer	Part of the Fugue. The Subject is the original melody, the answer is the melody that respond/imitates it
2/4 Simple Duple Time	2 crotchet beats in a bar. Simple= the beat is divided into 2s Duple = there are two beats
Baroque Gigue	A type of baroque era dance, usually in compound time (6/8).
Allegro	A fast tempo.
Triplets	3 notes played in the space of 2. Notated with the number 3 above the notes.
Dotted Rhythms	Rhythms that have dotted notes.
Semiquaver Runs	Passages of just semiquavers
Perfect Cadence	A progression of chords V-I. Sounds resolved.
Key Signature	The sharps or flats at the beginning of the piece that show what key you are in. This piece is in D major but modulates to the Dominant (A major) and the relative minor (B minor).

