

Baroque Music: More Than Meets the Ear

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Lecture Series Outline:

Week 1 - Baroque Basics

We will listen to musical excerpts and discuss the origins of Baroque music and what made it revolutionary compared with the Renaissance style. We will explore counterpoint and melody, basso continuo, harmony, and other key characteristics of the music of the period.

Week 2 - Advanced Concepts

We will explore some of the most fascinating musical concepts of the period, such as the doctrine of affections, intrinsic emotions of musical keys, imitative writing, canons, fugues, ornamentation, and word painting.

Week 3 - Word Painting

Word painting: musical effects and performance techniques that reflect the ideas conveyed in a music composition. We will make a case study of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. You might have heard this piece a hundred times, but you won't believe what you've missed!

Week 4 - Historical Performance Practice

We will discuss Historically Informed Performance (HIP) practices, such as articulations, tempos, ornaments, and improvisation. You will see demonstrations on a period instrument, take a look at period manuscripts and treatises, and sample some recordings to spot differences.

Week 5 - National Styles

We will visit Italy, France, Germany and England. Don't forget to bring your passport!

Week 6 - Baroque and Beyond

What happened in the transition from the Baroque to the now-prevailing Classical style we associate with Mozart and Haydn?... A whole lot, it turns out! We will sample some of the lesser known flavours of that brief period such as rococo and galant style, the Mannheim school, Neapolitan operas, etc.

Did you know? Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University's MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.