

The Development of Instrumental Music in The Baroque Era.

The Baroque Era (1600 - 1750) was the first period when instrumental music started to get more attention and flourish thanks to musicians like Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, and others composers.

The Baroque music is divided into two parts: The early Baroque (1600 - 1700) and the late Baroque (1700 - 1750). The word "baroque" began as a term of disapproval. In the seventeenth century the French philosopher Rousseau defined "Baroque music as that in which the harmony is confused, full of modulations and dissonances; the melody is harsh and unnatural; the intonation is remote; and the motion is constrained. Today the word "baroque" is no longer a negative term because of the work of many artists. Although the music between these two dates has common features, the beginning of this period is marked by stylistic and technical innovations that allowed the creation of the new musical invention that was Opera, which displayed the best of all contemporary arts. The early Baroque was a period of excitement and experimentation.

Early Baroque music was designed to be emotional to evoke specific states of mind and feelings. As the Baroque period progressed, organization and control began to replace experimentation and forms used in opera and in instrumental music became standardized. The chief vocal forms of the early Baroque were the opera and the cantata.

Instrumental music gained great importance. The most important instrumental forms of the Baroque era were the concerto, the sonata, and dance suite.

Another important influence of music was the spread of the Protestant movement. With different forms of sacred music such as Chorale, the oratorio and the Passion.

Finally, late Baroque music is characterized by rhythmic vitality. Vivaldi and Bach work are examples of the late style.

In conclusion, during the baroque era instrumental music had a great evolution thanks to the collaboration of great composers who managed to evoke feelings in their works and also progressed in the organization and created standards that continue as a fundamental basis to this day.