



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Pianos and Guitars  
SCARLATTI Keyboard Sonata in D Minor, K. 141  
BACH Prelude in C Minor, BWV 999

## WHAT IS BAROQUE MUSIC?

Baroque music is the music written during the Baroque period. The **Baroque period** was an era from 1600–1750. The word Baroque is used to describe a style of art from this period in history, including music, paintings, and buildings. Baroque music is made of fancy, embellished melodies and complicated patterns.



One of the most popular composers of the Baroque period is **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685–1750). He was born into a big musical family in Germany. His father played the violin, and many of his relatives were also musicians. He was a great composer who wrote over 1,000 works in his lifetime, and was also a virtuoso organ and harpsichord player.

**Doménico Scarlatti** (1685–1757), another featured composer on this episode, was also born in 1685, but spent his life in Italy and Spain. He came from a musical family and spent his lifetime composing for royalty, like most other composers of the Baroque period. He is best known for composing 555 keyboard sonatas, but also played the organ and was an accomplished harpsichordist.



**George Fredrick Handel** (1685–1759) is also a famous composer of the Baroque period. He was born in Germany the same year Bach was born, but Handel spent most of his career in England. He wrote many operas and oratorios, which are pieces of music for the orchestra and singers. Like Bach, Handel played organ and harpsichord, as well as violin.



## BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS



Back in the Baroque period, the piano as we know today did not exist. Baroque keyboard instruments popular in the 1600s were the **organ** and **harpsichord**. Organs make sound by forcing air through pipes and are still played in churches today. On the other hand, harpsichords are ancestors of the piano and were gradually replaced by the 19th century. Unlike pianos, which make sound by hitting the strings with a hammer, harpsichords create sound by plucking the strings.

This music, Fugue in B-flat by J.S. Bach, was originally written on a harpsichord. Compare how the harpsichord sounds different from modern piano [HERE](#).

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble each group of words (in bold above)! Then, write an interesting fact about each.

**NORAG** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOHNAJ TESNIAASB HBCA** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**UQRABOE PDORIE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**UEUGF** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REEGOG KERDEIFCR LDEHNA** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RROPHCHADIS** \_\_\_\_\_

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