

November – Baroque music

Baroque music is like a musical treasure chest from a long, long time ago — over 300 years ago! It's full of **fancy tunes**, **sparkly decorations**, and **big emotions**. The music often sounds **grand and royal**, like something you'd hear at a king's palace. Composers like **Handel**, **Bach**, and **Vivaldi** loved to make their music exciting, with **lots of patterns**, **echoes**, and **contrasts** — sometimes loud, sometimes soft, sometimes fast, sometimes slow! Baroque musicians played on beautiful old instruments like the **harpsichord** and **violin**, and they loved showing off their musical skills.

👂 **Things to listen out for:**

- The twinkly sound of the **harpsichord** (it sounds a bit like a plucky piano!)
- Repeating patterns** that make the music dance along
- Echoes** between instruments, like they're having a conversation
- Sudden changes from **loud to quiet**
- Fancy **trills and decorations** that make the tune sparkle

It's the kind of music that makes you want to sit up straight and imagine you're at a fancy royal party! 🎉🎻



Born: Eisenach Germany 1685

Died: 1750

Musical Period: Baroque (c. 1600–1750)

Western classical music known for its grandeur, drama, and ornamentation. Key characteristics include elaborate melodies, polyphonic texture, and the use of instruments like the harpsichord and organ.

Johann Sebastian Bach

🎹 What did he do?

Bach wrote **beautiful music** for **organs, harpsichords, violins, choirs, and orchestras**. He didn't write music to become famous — he wrote it for his **church**, his **students**, and for **special occasions**.

🎵 What was his music like?

Bach's music is full of **patterns, clever ideas, and beautiful harmonies**. It's calm, peaceful, and very **organised** — a bit like a puzzle made out of sound!

🔊 Things to listen out for:

The **organ** playing big, deep sounds

Repeating patterns that fit together like Lego pieces

Fast finger work on the harpsichord or violin

Strong beats that make you want to tap your toes



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George Frideric Handel

Handel wrote **beautiful music** for **orchestras, singers, and choirs**. He loved writing **operas** (musical plays) and **oratorios** (musical stories about special events or Bible stories) He liked to write music that made people feel inspired and amazed!

🔊 **Things to listen out for:**

Big, bold tunes that sound like royal celebrations 👑

The harpsichord, a plucky keyboard instrument

Trumpets and drums in his lively royal music

Strong rhythms that make you want to march or clap along

Beautiful singing in his famous oratorio *Messiah* (especially the *Hallelujah Chorus*!)

- He also wrote **Music for the Royal Fireworks**, which was played with real fireworks! 🎆
- He became a **British citizen** in **1727**.
- He helped raise money for **charities**, especially a hospital that cared for orphaned children.
- Handel went **blind** near the end of his life but continued to compose music.