

## *The Baroque ERA: 1600-1750*

### Renaissance Era

- wrote almost entirely vocal music
- the church was the center of musical activity
- instruments were very basic
- shorter forms
- emphasis on melody
- horizontal texture (polyphony)
- church modes
- no meter

### Baroque Era

- began to write more instrumental music
- expanded to include the theatre
- The standard instruments (violin, cello and harpsichord) became very developed.
- longer forms (concerto, sonata)
- emphasis on harmony and its function
- vertical texture (homophony)
- major/minor scales
- regular groupings of strong/weak beats, first use of time signatures and bar lines

**Opera** is born in the country of Italy. Emphasis placed on the artistry of the solo singer

**Aria** was designed for a solo singer and often sang about one topic.

**Oratorio** is very similar to opera in form, but has a sacred text, no costuming, scenery or acting.

### **The Composers**

- |                              |                          |                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - <b>J.S. Bach</b> (Germany) | -Moteverdi (Italy)       | - <b>G. F. Handel</b> (England) |
| -Heinrich Schütz (Germany)   | -Antonio Vivaldi (Italy) | -Henry Purcell (England)        |

### **Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 – 1750**

- He was a virtuoso organist/keyboard player
- His death represented the end of the Baroque period.

### **Georg Frideric Händel 1685 – 1759**

- He was born in Germany but spent most of his career in England
- His most famous work was *The Messiah*

**Recitative** is a musical form, much like spoken dialogue with limited accompaniment, which moves the plot along.

# lafayette choir

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Baroque era began in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Opera was born in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a musical form, much like spoken dialogue with limited accompaniment, which moves the plot along.
4. Bach's main instrument was the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What event is said to have ended the Baroque era? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The text for an oratorio is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Other than Bach and Handel, list 3 other Baroque composers:
8. What is the name of Handel's most well-known composition (Hint: it's an oratorio) \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is a solo song in opera that is usually sung about one topic.
10. The Baroque Era ended in what year? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Which composer is considered the "Father of Opera"? \_\_\_\_\_
12. List 3 differences between Renaissance and Baroque: