

# GCSE Music – Set Work 1 – Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major – 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement



## A: History of Composer

- *J.S. Bach was born in Germany.*
- *He came from a family of professional musicians and was the youngest of 8 children.*
- *Both of his parents had died by the time he was 10 and so he was brought up by an elder brother.*
- *He became a choirboy at the age of 15.*
- *He became church organist and choirmaster in 1703 and 1707.*
- *In 1717, he was appointed Kapellmeister (choirmaster) at the court of Prince Leopold in Cothen and it was at this time that the Brandenburg Concertos were written.*

## B: Characteristics of Baroque.

*Bach wrote during the Baroque period of music. Although there is not a technical start and end date – it is approximately 1600-1750.*

- *Key features of the Baroque period*
- *Terraced dynamics (two stages – loud and soft)*
- *Baroque orchestra – mainly strings with SOME woodwind and brass (depending on the availability)*
- *Use of Harpsichord (Basso continuo)*
- *Use of sequences, pedals and suspensions*
- *Use of ornaments*

## C: DR SMITTH

<b>D</b> ynamics	Terraced dynamics – common feature of baroque. Very few dynamic markings
<b>R</b> hythm	Simple time – 2/4 (Feels like 6/8) Triplets and dotted rhythms used throughout Semiquaver runs in Harpsichord
<b>S</b> tructure	Ternary structure (ABA) Section A (Bars 1 – 78), Section B (Bars 79 – 232), Section A (Bars 233 – End)
<b>M</b> elody	Much of the music is in <b>conjunct</b> (stepwise) style though there are leaps. Often the conjunct music is extended to <b>scalic</b> runs, especially in the harpsichord part. There is a rising <b>sequence</b> at bar 137 There are occasional <b>ornaments</b> , with <b>trills</b> in the harpsichord part. There are <b>appoggiaturas</b> in the main middle section theme when it returns in A major (e.g. bar 148).

<b>I</b> nstrumentation	<b>Ripieno</b> consists of 1 <sup>st</sup> Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass <b>Concertino</b> consists of flute, violin and harpsichord.
<b>T</b> exture	The texture is <b>polyphonic/contrapuntal</b> . The movement begins in <b>fugal</b> style. A fugue is a complicated piece which uses <b>imitation</b> almost throughout. The <b>subject</b> in the solo violin is followed by an answer in the flute at a distance of two bars. We now have <b>two-part imitation</b> . The harpsichord plays in <b>two-part counterpoint</b> . Once both hands are playing, the music is in <b>four-part counterpoint</b> .
<b>T</b> empo	<b>Allegro</b> all the way through.
<b>T</b> onality/ <b>H</b> armony	The music is in <b>D major</b> . This key is used for most of the two A sections. The B section modulates to the <b>dominant</b> (A major) and <b>relative minor</b> (B minor). The music is <b>diatonic</b> .