



Set Work 1

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

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

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