

Objectives for Baroque Vocal Music

Overall Objectives

This chapter will help students acquire familiarity with:

1. Baroque vocal music as the expression of strong emotions, or "affects."
2. Significant Baroque vocal genres:
 - opera seria
 - oratorio
3. Baroque vocal forms and techniques, especially secco and accompanied recitative, da capo aria, chorus, chorale, and chorale prelude.
4. The life and music of George Frideric Handel.

Listening Objectives

After completing this chapter, students should be able to:

1. Hear and identify how the elements of music are typically used to express strong emotions in Baroque vocal music.
2. Follow the genres of Baroque vocal music, especially opera seria, oratorio.
3. Follow the forms and techniques of Baroque vocal music, especially secco and accompanied recitative, da capo aria, and chorus.

Comparison and Contrast between Aria and Recitative

Recitative

free, speech-like rhythms

itches follow natural patterns
phrases of declamation

continuo accompaniment

prose text

advances the action (movement, dialogue)
free, spontaneous interaction

Aria

clear beat and meter

itches fall into melodic patterns

orchestral
accompaniment

poetic text, phrases often
repeated

reflects on the action, soliloquy,
expresses single emotion