



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PROPOSED SCHEDULE	4
2. OVERVIEW AND COURSE GOALS	5
3. THE PSALMS (HAIK-VANTOURA)	6
4. MEDIEVAL ERA (POPE GREGORY I)	8
5. RENAISSANCE ERA (PALESTRINA)	10
6. BAROQUE ERA (HANDEL)	12
7. CLASSICAL ERA (MOZART)	14
8. ROMANTIC ERA (BRAHMS)	16
9. MODERN ERA (VAUGHN-WILLIAMS)	18
10.AMERICAN MUSIC	20
11.SOUND-OFF COLLECTION	24
12.FAMOUS COMPOSER TRI-FOLD DISPLAY	32
13.CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES	33
14.RESOURCE LIST	37
15.ANSWER KEYS	38



# Overview and Course Goals

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The goal of this music history curriculum is to introduce students to the six major musical history eras, correlate those eras with historical events, and study one composer from each era. Additional activities for older students and larger groups are also included.

Overview:

1. **Musical Eras:** These concise, fill-in-the-blank reports provide an opportunity to learn about a particular music history time period. Present these as a guided discussion.
2. **Timeline:** Completing the timeline chart allows a student to place other historical events in the time period.
3. **Listening Log:** A listening log provides space for recording musical selections chosen for classroom or home listening exercises.
4. **Composer Study with Activity:** A biographical sketch of a prominent composer and a comprehension activity is on the reverse of each history study.
5. **Psalms & American Music Study:** Although not always included in most musical history timelines, these studies help students understand a development of biblical music as well as the rise of American music and composers.
6. **Sound-offs:** A list of ten basic concepts for each historical era including composers provide review material for class chants.
7. **Famous Composer:** This tri-fold activity is suitable for display at a school open house or as an assessment project.
8. **Challenge Activities:** Additional activities for further study in politics, research, music, drama, and creative writing are included for use with older students.
9. **Resource List:** Hymnal, books, recordings and helpful websites are listed here.
10. **Answer Keys:** Complete answers for all activities are included.

# BAROQUE ERA

1600-1750

## Report

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Era begins in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the development of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The era closes in the 1750's with the deaths of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and (5) \_\_\_\_\_, two of the most important musicians.

Musicians were working very hard during this time, and they were producing many fine works of music. Some of their achievements were:

- (6) \_\_\_\_\_, (7) \_\_\_\_\_, and (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- The formation of the modern (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- Development of (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rise of protestant church music and (11) \_\_\_\_\_

The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ became the most popular form of instrumental music for performances. The concerto featured a solo instrument or a small group of soloists. The soloist played (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the orchestra. Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" was a famous concerto during this time.

## Baroque Era Listening Log

### Important Events in History

King James Bible

Plymouth

Rembrandt

Louis XIV ruling

Sir Isaac Newton

Great Awakening

Franklin-electricity

### Vocabulary

- Baroque: Portuguese for "a pearl of irregular shape".
- Canon: A melody that is imitated at different entrances to the music
- Fugue: A melody that enters at different pitches during the music
- Harmony: Pitches sung together in an agreeable sound

## Handel Word Search

Directions:

Find these words in the puzzle to the right. They will be horizontal, vertical, and diagonal.

ABBEY	HARPSICHORD
LONDON	ALMIRA
COMPOSER	MESSIAH
FREDRIC	MUSIC
GEORGE	ORATORIO
GERMANY	ORGAN
HALLE	WATER
HAMBURG	WESTMINSTER
HANDEL	

H	K	N	N	Y	W	C	D	G	Y	M	M	C	C	E
W	A	T	E	R	E	K	H	R	Q	E	I	K	L	L
M	H	R	X	Z	S	A	O	U	S	S	B	Y	C	L
P	Y	L	P	P	T	Q	O	B	U	S	Q	B	D	A
R	U	I	J	S	M	Z	L	M	E	S	S	I	A	H
X	B	G	M	M	I	O	P	A	E	H	G	O	Y	T
N	C	R	G	Y	N	C	J	H	O	T	R	N	G	F
Y	C	F	L	D	S	G	H	F	K	A	A	X	W	P
A	W	I	O	Z	T	P	R	O	T	M	V	S	Z	J
O	L	N	R	Q	E	U	G	O	R	A	G	J	Z	W
U	R	M	M	D	R	N	R	E	R	D	E	I	E	W
U	R	G	I	J	E	I	G	V	M	I	O	Q	R	J
S	T	U	A	R	O	R	W	U	X	J	R	A	X	C
M	L	E	D	N	A	H	F	G	B	M	G	E	R	C
K	R	E	S	O	P	M	O	C	I	Q	E	O	M	A

## George Frideric Handel

Handel was born in February, 1685, in Halle, Germany. His father hoped he would study law, but George practiced piano secretly whenever he could. It wasn't long until the youngster began formal music studies. At 17 he was the organist at the Calvinist Chapel. One year later he moved to Hamburg, playing the violin and harpsichord at the opera house. His first opera, *Almira*, opened there in 1705.

He later lived in Italy where his operas, cantatas, and oratorios were performed in the great musical cities of Florence and Rome. In 1710 he left Italy to visit London, England, where one of his operas was to be performed. The English people appreciated his music, and Handel later became an English citizen.

Handel returned to writing oratorios, biblical stories set to music. His greatest oratorio, *Messiah*, premiered in Dublin, Ireland, in 1741 as a fund raiser for a charity hospital. He produced this masterpiece in just 24 days of work. When he died on April 14, 1759, he was buried in Westminster Abby with the most famous English kings, musicians, and poets. He was one of the greatest composers of his day, writing beautiful melodies that were expressive and dramatic.



Painting of Handel by Balthasar Denner  
1726-28

## **BAROQUE ERA SOUND-OFF**

1. The Baroque Era begins in 1600 with the development of opera and ends in the 1750's with the deaths of Bach and Handel.
2. "Baroque" is Portuguese for "a pearl of irregular shape".
3. The King James Bible was printed in 1611, before Plymouth Plantation began in 1620.
4. Louis XIV of France, Peter the Great of Russia, and George I of England were the world leaders.
5. This era is famous for the development of opera, harmony, and the modern orchestra.
6. A canon is a melody that is imitated at different entrances to the music, as in the "Tallis Canon".
7. A fugue is a melody that enters at different pitches during the music, as in "For Unto Us a Child is Born".
8. This era saw the rise of protestant church music and chorales.
9. Handel is best known for his oratorio, "Messiah".
10. Bach is considered the master of choral harmony.