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Lesson 8 Late Italian Baroque: transition to Classical period

Key word

Common practice tonality: harmony,
chord progression, diatonic scale,
use of chromatic,,

Italian Baroque composers
Alessandro Scarlatti, Domenico
Scarlatti, Vivaldi...

Sponsor: Cardinal Ottoboni, Medici,
,,

Opera, operetta, oratorio, cantata,
musical, ballet. Liturgical works,
the Mass, requiem,
Libretto (台本?) were created.

Some technical notes

The Baroque music created a special tonality which called common-practice tonality.

This kind of arrangement has been used in almost all Western popular music.

The common-practice period persisted from the mid-late baroque period, through the Classical, Romantic periods (around 1650 to 1900).

The period shows stylistic evolution, with some patterns and conventions flourishing and then declining.

During the Baroque era, professional musicians were expected to be improvisers of solo melodic lines, accompanied by a basso continuo group (chord-playing instrumentalists such as harpsichordists and bass instruments—viol, cello, double bass—the bassline.

Common practice period	
Baroque era	c. 1600–1750
* Late Baroque	c. 1680–1750
Galant music	c. 1720–1780
*	c. 1740–1790
Classical era	c. 1750–1820
* Mannheim school	c. 1740–1780
* <i>Sturm und Drang</i>	c. 1770–1780
Romantic era	c. 1800–1909
* Nationalism (Romantic)	c. 1830–1910

Harmony

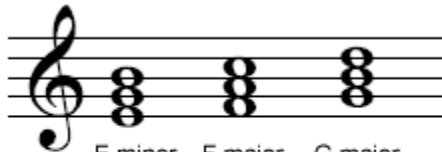
The harmonic language of this period is known as "common-practice tonality", or sometimes the "tonal system".

Common-practice tonality represents a union between harmonic function and counterpoint. Melodic lines, express harmonic unity and goal-oriented progression.

In tonal music, each tone in the diatonic scale shows its relationship to the tonic (the fundamental pitch of the scale) with chromatic alteration.

Roman numeral analysis: musical analysis in which chords are represented by Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV. It represents **root note .**

An ascending progression of triad chords in notation:



Chords by name: E minor F major G major

Figured chords (in the key of C): iii IV V

Chromatic tones are outside the seven-note diatonic (i.e., major and minor) scales of C major.

The black keys represent 5 chromatic tone; black and white keys =the chromatic scale of 12 tones per octave.

In the 16th and early 17th centuries, notably in the secular Italian and English madrigal, chromaticism was used to heighten expressiveness;

Jean-Philippe Rameau: Treatise on Harmony, 1722 (Issac Newton of Music)

A revolution in music theory. Rameau discovered the "fundamental law" or "fundamental bass" of all Western music.

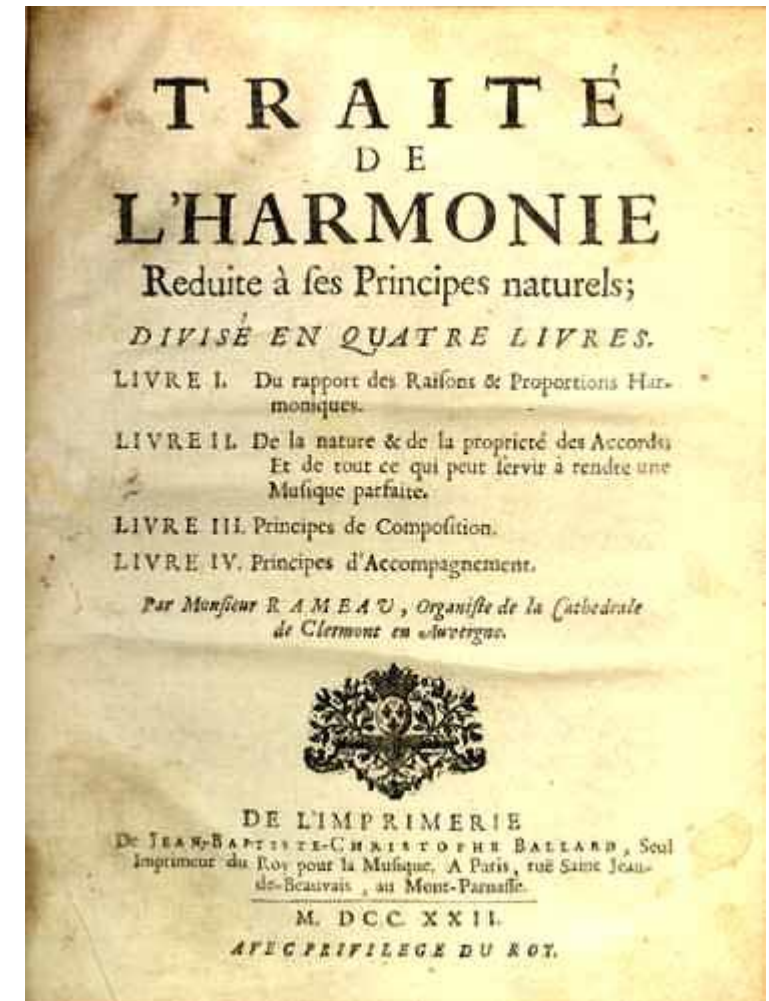
Influenced by new Cartesian modes, his methodology incorporated mathematics, commentary, analysis to illuminate, scientifically, the structure and principles of music.

He attempted to derive universal harmonic principles from natural causes by embracing the rationalism.

He rose to prominence in France as the "[Isaac Newton](#) of Music.

His fame spread throughout all Europe forming the foundation for instruction in western music that persists to this day.

The Treatise describes music and how to write it, based on the tonal system used today in classical mode.



Rameau's harmonic system based upon fundamental principles, explains intervals, chords, and modes — essential to musical composition in tonal style.

Books One, Two, Three : the practical rules of composition, including harmonic modulation and chord progressions.

Book Four concerns the practical art of accompaniment on harpsichord or organ, including the realization of a figured bass.

Chord progressions: the foundation of harmony in Western musical tradition from the common practice era to the 21st century.

Composers experimented a fuller sound for each instrumental part by changing musical notation.

It developed bass as a quick way to notate the chord progression of a song or piece. It led to new instrumental playing techniques.

Ex Johann Pachelbel - Canon & Gigue in D major (c. 1700) - I. Sostenuto (descending bass lines)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26MkcZly7LQ>

[Ex Ravel's Piano Concerto in G](#) to be completed.

Italian Baroque composers and Italian opera

Roman School was a group of **composers** of predominantly church music, in **Rome**, during the 16th and 17th centuries,

Venetian School: **composers** working in **Venice** from about 1550 to around 1610,

Neapolitan school composers (to be defined) (Naples)

the **Neapolitan School:** Composers who studied or worked in **Naples**, Italy. The best known of whom is **Alessandro Scarlatti**, with whom "modern opera begins".

- music speaks the language of the feelings, emotions, and passions.
- *Schluter*

Alessandro Scarlatti

(1660-1725)

Scarlatti was born in Palermo, part of the Kingdom of Sicily.

The production at Rome of his opera *Gli equivoci nel sembiante* (1679) gained him the support of Queen Christina of Sweden (who at the time was living in Rome), and he became her *maestro di cappella*.

In 1684 he became *maestro di cappella* to the viceroy of Naples. He produced a long series of operas, remarkable for their fluency and expressiveness.

In 1702 Scarlatti left Naples because of the Spanish domination.



Palermo

He enjoyed the patronage of Ferdinando de' Medici, whose private theatre was near Florence. In Rome, he composed operas for Cardinal Ottoboni, who made him his *maestro di cappella*, and gave him a similar post at the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome in 1703.

In 1707, Scarlatti took his duties in Naples, and stayed there until 1717. In Rome, at the Teatro Capranica, he produced his finest operas ([Telemaco](#), 1718; *Marco Attilio Regolò*, 1719; *La Griselda*, 1721), as well as noble church music, including a *Messa di Santa Cecilia* for chorus and orchestra.

He died in Naples in 1725.



[Telemaco](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mx1108NGpc



Basilica di Santa Maria
Maggiore in Rome



Teatro
Capranica in
Rome



Alessandro Scarlatti - *Griselda* 1_2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoixNjy1HkI>

Giuseppe Domenico Scarlatti (Naples, 1685 – Madrid, 1757)

Italy- Spain- Portugal

He was born in 1685, the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel. He developed the Classical style. He composed a variety of musical forms, known for 555 keyboard sonatas.



He spent much of his life in the service of the Portuguese and Spanish royal families.

After Venice, he went to Rome and entered the service of the exiled Polish queen Marie Casimire.

Scarlatti was already an accomplished harpsichordist: There is a story of a trial of skill with George Frideric Handel at the palace of Cardinal Ottoboni in Rome where he was judged possibly superior to Handel on the harpsichord, although inferior on the organ.

Scarlatti has been heralded as the "greatest Italian harpsichord composer of all time".

Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

composer, violinist, teacher, and Roman Catholic priest. Born in Venice, -



the supplemental baptismal rites, San Giovanni in Bragora, Sestiere di Castello, Venice

In early 18th-century Venice, opera was the most popular musical entertainment. It proved most profitable for Vivaldi. There were several theaters competing for the public's attention. Vivaldi started his career as an opera composer as a sideline: his first opera, Ottone in villa (RV 729) ■ ■ ■ was performed not in Venice, but at the Garzerie Theater in *Vicenza* in 1713.

Ottone in villa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtP1ZYnstcw>

The following year, Vivaldi became the impresario of the Teatro San Angelo in Venice, where his opera *Orlando finto pazzo* (RV 727) ■ ■ ■ was performed. The work was not to the public's taste, and it closed after a couple of weeks..

Orlando finto pazzo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ooq0S0uspsM>

It is likely that Vivaldi went to Vienna to stage operas. He took up residence near the [Kärntnertortheater](#) "Imperial and Royal Court Theater of Vienna".. Shortly after his arrival in Vienna, Charles VI died, he lost protection from the Emperor. He died during the night of 27/28 July 1741, aged 63.



In the early 20th century, [Fritz Kreisler](#)'s Concerto in C, in the Style of Vivaldi helped revive Vivaldi's reputation. This spurred the French scholar [Marc Pincherle](#) to begin an academic study of Vivaldi's oeuvre. Many Vivaldi manuscripts were rediscovered, which were acquired by the Turin National University Library. This led to a renewed interest in Vivaldi by Mario Rinaldi, Alfredo Casella,,Arnold Schering and Louis Kaufman.



Antonio Vivaldi - Concerto in C major, RV 558

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtmdiWnBSyU>



Vivaldi - Mandolin Concertos | Fabio Biondi Europa Galante

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T22GJNt1SbE&t=413s>

Domenico Scarlatti has attracted notable admirers,
How many composers and musicians do you know ? /23

1. [Béla Bartók,](#)
2. [Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli,](#)
3. [Pieter-Jan Belder,](#)
4. [Johann Sebastian Bach,](#)
5. [Muzio Clementi,](#)
6. [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,](#)
7. [Ludwig van Beethoven,](#)
8. [Carl Czerny,](#)
9. [Franz Liszt,](#)
10. [Johannes Brahms,](#)
11. [Frédéric Chopin,](#)
12. [Claude Debussy,](#)
13. [Emil Gilels,](#)
14. [Francis Poulenc,](#)
15. [Olivier Messiaen,](#)
16. [Enrique Granados,](#)
17. [Marc-André Hamelin,](#)
18. [Vladimir Horowitz,](#)
19. [Ivo Pogorelić,](#)
20. [Scott Ross](#) (the first performer to record all 555 sonatas),
21. [Heinrich Schenker,](#)
22. [András Schiff](#)
23. [Dmitri Shostakovich.](#)