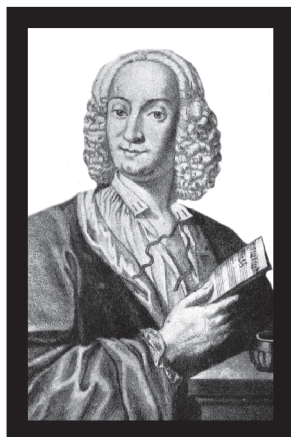




QUAVER REPORT

Great Composers of the Baroque Period



Antonio Vivaldi

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born March 4, 1678 in Venice and died July 28, 1741 in Vienna.
- He wrote over 450 pieces of music.
- He wrote hundreds of concertos and operas. A Baroque concerto had two groups of players, one larger than the other. In a concert, they took turns performing.
- One of his popular pieces is **THE FOUR SEASONS**.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Vivaldi was employed by a wealthy orphanage for girls and wrote lots of music for them as practice pieces.
- He was fired from the orphanage and then got his job back at the same place!
- He had red hair and on the day he was born there was an earthquake.
- Vivaldi had asthma.

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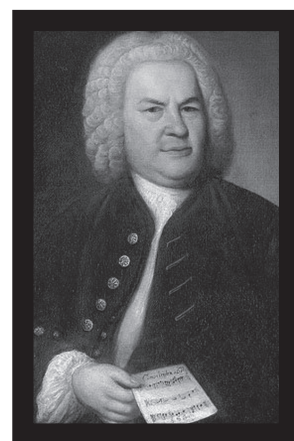
Johann Sebastian Bach

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born March 21, 1685 and died July 28, 1750 in Germany.
- One of Bach's most famous pieces was his **AIR ON A G STRING**.
- Bach was a musical genius who played the organ. He wrote organ pieces, orchestra pieces, lute pieces, harpsichord pieces, choir pieces, and loads more.
- He was employed by churches and therefore wrote loads of church music.
- Bach was a master at writing fugues, which were really like rounds, but a bit more complicated.

FUN FACTS

- He was never famous in his lifetime. In fact, he was just known as the church organist. BUT, after he died, people realized what a genius he was.
- He had twenty children, of which four became famous musicians.
- Bach was very impatient with people not as skilled as himself. He once took off his wig and threw it at a player who couldn't play the right notes. On another occasion he told a bad bassoon player that he sounded like a nanny goat!



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George Frideric Handel

HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

- Born in Germany February 23, 1685 and died April 14, 1759.
- He spent most of his life in England and later became an English citizen.
- He wrote many pieces for English royalty such as *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Water Music*, requested by King George I, who wanted a concert on the River Thames.
- Handel wrote 40 operas and many oratorios (operas without the acting).
- One of his most popular pieces today is his *Messiah*, which contains the famous *Hallelujah Chorus* (Track).
- In addition to his larger pieces, he also wrote 16 keyboard suites, which were sets of small pieces based on dances.

FUN FACTS

- Handel's dad banned him from playing the clavichord, but he managed to smuggle one up to his bedroom in the attic and practice it when his dad was asleep.
- During a performance of *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, one of the fireworks hit a specially made wooden carving of George I. The whole stage caught fire and fell apart!
- Beethoven once said of Handel, "*Handel is the greatest composer who ever lived. I would bare my head and kneel at his grave.*"

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More about the Baroque Period...

- The Baroque Period followed the Renaissance Period from 1600 to 1750. It was a period of orchestras and fancy music.
- Singers and instrumentalists used ornaments such as trills, turns, and appoggiaturas to make their music more fancy.
- The harpsichord was a featured instrument during this period of music.
- Women were not allowed to perform in Baroque orchestras. Chairs were not allowed; musicians stood to perform.
- The clarinet was introduced near the end of the Baroque Period.



Other Famous Composers...

- Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)
- Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
- Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767)
- Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683–1764)