

2012-10-31

- madrigal = acapella piece for solo voices
- drone = long, sustained note
- humanism = focus on "life now", not heaven/hell
- pizzicato = plucking the strings
- Renaissance = means "rebirth"
- Martin Luther = musician, composed hymns
- word painting = trying to write the music so that when you hear it, you see a picture of it
- polychoral motet = a piece (sacred) for two or more choirs
- Baroque = highly ornamented
- terraced dynamics = loud, suddenly soft (or vice-versa; not gradual)
- unity of mood = the same mood or feeling throughout the piece
- Basso continuo/figured bass = bass line with numbers above it
- Movement = a piece that sounds complete, but is a part of a bigger composition
- concerto grosso = an instrumental form and uses the Tutti ("all") and uses the Ritornello ("refrain" or "chorus")
- Tutti = "all"
- Ritornello = "refrain" or "chorus"
- trill = alternating two tones fast
- chorale = hymn
- Gutenberg = movable type
- Cantata = like a small oratorio
- fugue = like an elaborate round
- prelude = a separate piece before an opera or fugue
- oratorio = like an opera, but not**
- opera = like an oratorio, but not**
- supers = like "extras" in the opera
- chorus = a large group of people singing together
- stage hands = move set/stuff on/off stage for opera
- lighting designer = designs lights for opera (to create mood)
- stage designer (set designer) = designs the stage
- costume designer = designs the costumes
- choreographer = creates the dances
- rehearsal accompanist = plays music for singers to make sure they know the music
- stage manager = in charge of everything on-stage and back-stage for the opera
- prompter = in a hole in the stage, gives cues/etc for opera
- libretto = words for opera (like play book)

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- recitative = like speaking with chords underneath
- aria = fancy solo for opera (or oratorio) singers
- ensemble = a small group singing together (usually smaller than a whole chorus)
- duet = two people
- trio = three people
- quartet = four people
- soloist = one person
- props = stuff you carry on-stage for the performance of the opera (like a book, bottle of water, gun, flowers, whatever)
- quintet = five people
- overture = played before the opera or oratorio begins
- super titles = the translation of the opera, usually above the stage
- castrato = little boys castrated so their voices never changed, and they became opera stars
- da capo = repeat from the very beginning
- ground bass/basso ostinato = repeated over and over, like "meow meow meow meow" theme song
- trio sonata = four instruments, but three lines of music
- solo concerto = solo instrument with orchestra
- suite = instrumental composition and it's like with dance styles (not dancing, but listening)
- scherzo = Beethoven used it; means "joke"
- stage director = tells everybody how to act, move, and interpret their act on-stage
- coach = coaches the singers to make sure they know the words/music correctly
- French overture = in two parts: first with dotted rhythms, second is dance-like, usually with fugue form
- Age of Enlightenment = when people thought that common sense or reason could solve all the problems in the world
- Rococo = curved lines, light colors, way over-done
- style galant = gallant style; light listening composition
- symphony = a four-movement composition for the whole orchestra
- string quartet = a composition for four instruments (strings)
- sonata = a composition for a solo instrument or one to eight players, in several movements
- sonata form = a form for a single movement, for the orchestra
- coda = the winding-up section
- minuet and trio = three part form (ABA)
- serenade = light, entertainment; easy to listen to in the evening

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- rondo = one main theme, other themes alternate
- cadenza = solo for one instrument, where orchestra stops playing (and the solo instrument "shows off" what the instrument/human can do)
- chamber music = music written for a smaller group in a smaller room
- requiem = mass for the dead
- golden age of choral music = renaissance
- lute = pear-shaped stringed instrument
- theme and variations = the main tune, then the composer writes it differently
- motet = polyphonic, sacred composition
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