

2012-10-10

- Orchestra = unknown when word "orchestra" first used to describe groups of instruments; is from classical Greek meaning an area of theater where dancing took place (between stage and first row of audience = like "orchestra pit") earliest written in English = 1753
- Performance groups = 10 to 10 or 40 - based on strings with *basso continuo* Writing for specific instruments still not a priority; composers arranged music to suit available instruments.
- Baroque forms:
  - Movements = sounds complete but is part of a larger composition.
  - Concerto grosso (p. 128) - Large instrumental group in two parts = Tutti = all (8-20) play ritornello (refrain); solo groups (2-4) more complicated; like instrumental combat.
  - Fugue = group of instruments or voices on keyboard (p. 132)
- Baroque music and society = courts, churches, towns, opera houses demanded new music; Ruling class had money for entertainment; employed finest inst., singers, composers, choirs = size depended on money.
- Music directors = in charge of all
- Churches = where ordinary people heard new music; composers had to write new music constantly.
- Composers = wrote for opera houses; positions passed down in family or apprenticed to town musician; children in orphanages given music training and were fine inst. and singers. Women not music directors or inst. in courts or opera houses. To get a job = pass difficult exam, submit compositions, contribute to town's treasury.
- Marry daughter of retiring musician (Bach and Handel) - both refused
- Italians got paid twice as much as local musicians and held best positions.
- Ground bass = *basso ostinato* (obstinate or persistent bass) = bass line repeated many times. Melodies and harmonies above change.
- *Camerata* ("fellowship") = nobles, poets, musicians, composers - in Florence, Italy; new vocal style based on ancient Greek tragedy = homophonic = recitative.
- Monteverdi = Italy (1567-1643) one of most important composers; singer, violist, madrigals and sacred music and opera. Son of doctor, St. Mark's - Venice = 30 years. Big influence on other composers.
- Euridice by Jacopo Peri and Orfeo by Monteverdi: Orpheus and Eurydice in love; shepherds and nymphs sing and dance - Interrupted by messenger = Eurydice bitten by snake and is dead. Orpheus (a musician) = broken hearted; goes to Hades (hell) to bring Eurydice back; King of hell says OK - but cannot turn and look at Eurydice on way back. Orpheus anxious and looks; Eurydice disappears forever. Apollo brings Orpheus to heaven so he can look forever on Eurydice in the sun and stars.