

Fugue: The most mature form of imitative, polyphonic composition for 2 or more voices. Expositions with formal subjects and countersubjects alternate with episodes in which the voices are often manipulated with sequence, modulation and fragmentation among others.

Absolute Music: Music written without programmatic intentions or inspiration.

Baroque Suite: A collection of dances in the same key. The Four standard dances are: Allemande, Courante, Sarabande and Gigue. Other dances are optional such as minuet, bouree, gavotte, polonaise etc.

Etude: Literally mean "study" in French. A piece of music intended as a study for mastering a particular technique such as legato, parallel thirds, pedal.

Compositional Devices

Modulation: The change of the tonal center or key within a composition

Pedal Point: A note (usually tonic or dominant) that is sustained under changing harmony

Non harmonic Tones:

Neighbor tone: A note that is not part of an analyzed chord. It is approached by step and left by step in the opposite direction. They may be accented or unaccented.

Passing tone: A note that is not part of an analyzed chord. It is approached by step and left by step in the same direction. They may be accented or unaccented.

French Terms

Au Movement: A tempo

Cédez: *ralentando*

Leger: lightly

m.d.: (main droit) right hand

m.g.: (main gauche) left hand

Moins: less

Peu: less

Plus: more

Sans: without

Pressez: *accelerando*

En serrant: pressing forward

Retenu: hold back

Vif: brisk, animated

German Terms

Dur: major

Moll: minor

Langsam: slow

Schnell: fast

Rash: quickly

Lebhaft: vivaciously

Sehr: very much

Massig: moderately