London Philharmonic Orchestra



GCSE BrightSparks Resources

BrightSparks is generously funded by the Rothschild Foundation with additional support from the Candide Trust, Dunard Fund,
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Johann Sebastian Bach

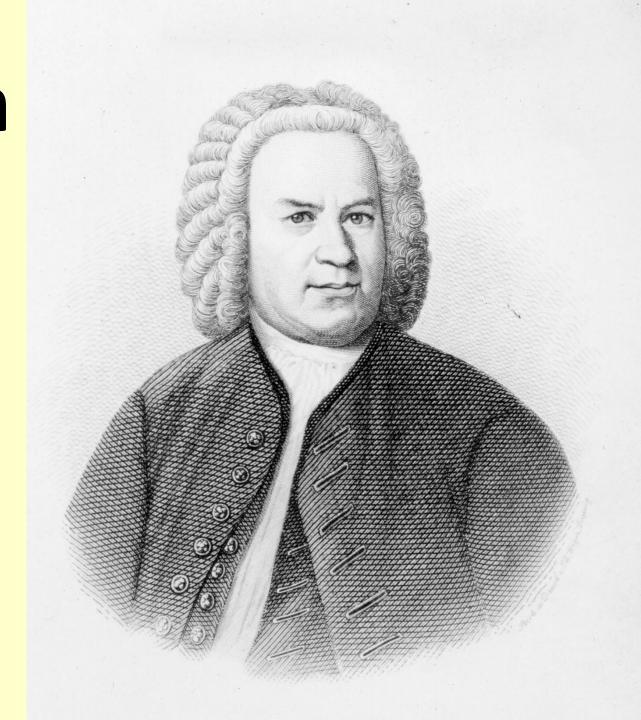
(1685-1750)

'Badinerie'

Orchestral Suite

No. 2

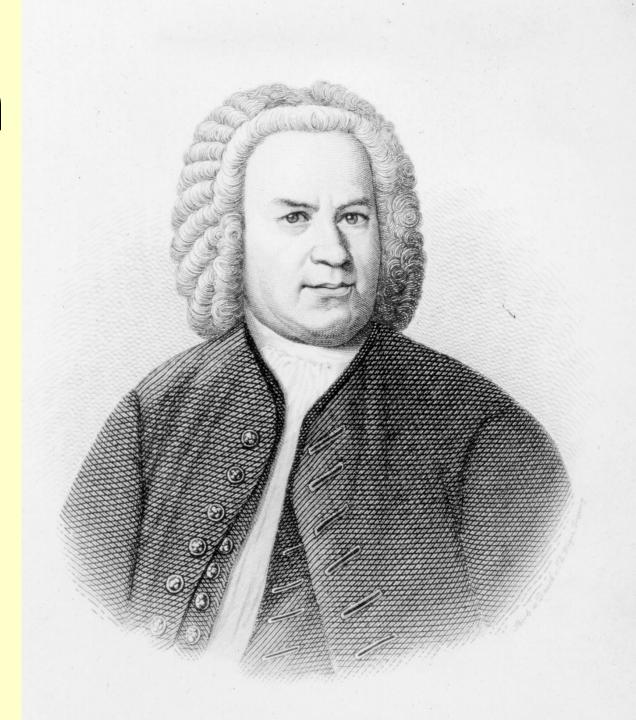
(1738)



Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

- German Baroque composer
- Regarded as one of the best composers that ever lived
- 'Badinerie' performed by flute, string orchestra and harpsichord continuo



Continuo = improvised accompaniment of chords/harmony over bassline, played by harpsichord.

A good indication that we are in the Baroque period.

Concerto = piece for soloist and orchestra

Baroque Period

Two types of concerto:

- Solo concerto = one soloist and orchestra
- Concerto grosso = small group of soloists (concertino) and accompanying group (ripieno)

Remember! – Although the flute plays a significant role in this piece, it is **not** a concerto!

- Written for flute, string orchestra and harpsichord
- This is the second movement from a seven-movement suite

Orchestral Suite = collection of small pieces in different dance styles

Badinerie = fun, light-hearted lively (means 'banter')

- Written for flute, string orchestra and harpsichord
- § 2/4 time signature
- 4 Allegro (fast)
- Binary form (AA BB) like many Baroque pieces

Analysis



Music is built from two melodic motifs: X and Y

Two melodic motifs (short melodic cell):

Motif X:



- Falling arpeggio (notes of chord played separately)
- B minor (home key)
- Quavers and semiquavers bouncy feel
- Played by the flute at the beginning

Two melodic motifs:



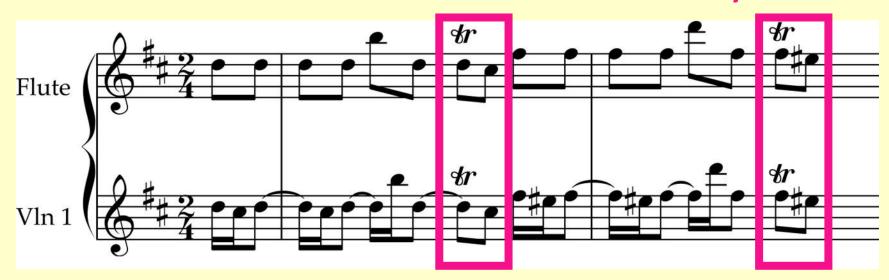
- Smoother rhythm (more semiquavers)
- Played by the flute at the beginning
- § Ends with a perfect cadence

Perfect cadence = final two chords of a phrase are V-I, giving sense of resolve/completion

The flute and the first violin move to a new melody...

Ornamentation =

- Key element of the Baroque period
- ¶ Trills, grace notes etc.
- § Little 'twiddles' that decorate the melody



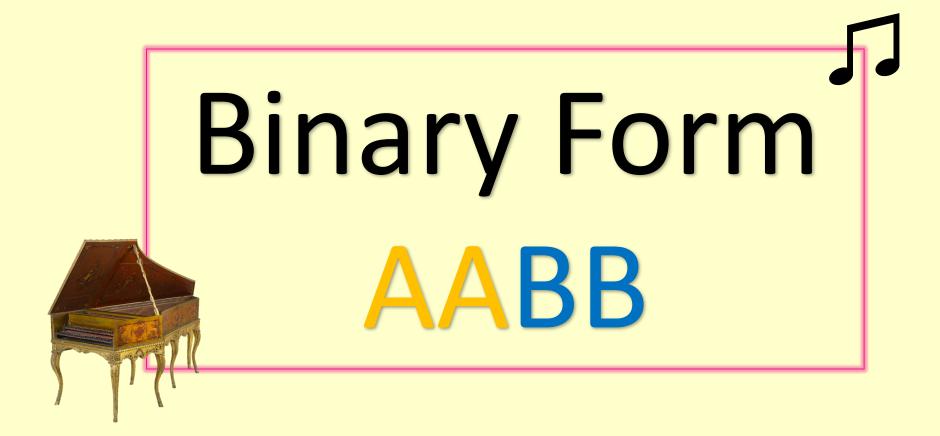
This new melody is a sequence. We hear it twice, with the second time beginning on higher pitch.

The first violin also uses syncopation.

Syncopation =

Emphasis on the weaker parts of the bar





BINARY FORM: AA BB

Section A (Bars 1-16)

- Begins in home key of B minor
- Modulates and end in dominant minor key F# minor with perfect cadence (V-V7-I)

Section A repeats in full

Modulate = move key

BINARY FORM: AA BB

Section B (Bars 16 – end)

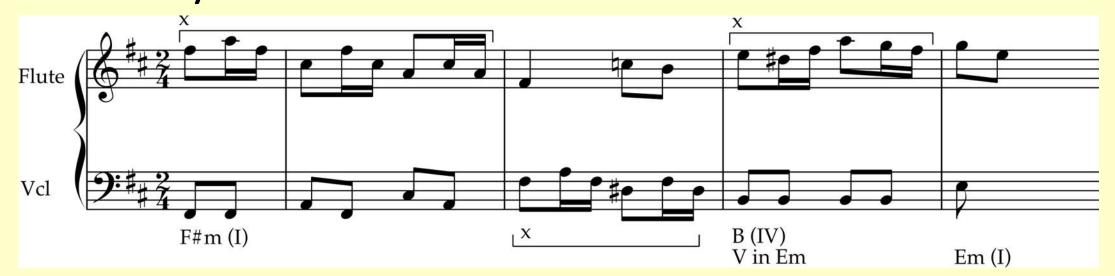
- Begins in dominant minor key F# minor
- Modulates and end in home key of B minor

Section A repeats in full

Key scheme is opposite of what happens in Section A

Section B:

- Bach uses motif X to move through different keys
- At the start of Section B the flute plays X to establish the new key of F# minor
- Then the cello takes over and uses X to move to the next key of E minor



Section B:

- Bach uses Motif Y to move through different keys
- It is used to modulate via G major to D, the relative major of the home key



Section B:

- Bach uses X and Y to move through different keys
- Bar 28 sequence (same as Section A but transposed) with ornaments and syncopation
- Bar 33 X and Y modified, featuring an appoggiatura and demisemiquavers
- § Ends with perfect cadence in B minor

Structure summary



BINARY FORM: AA BB

Section A (beginning to bar 16):

- Motif X on flute establishes the home key of B minor
- Motif Y
- Motif X repeats
- Flute and violin play the melody, cello has X
- Y used to modulate to dominant minor key
- Perfect cadence in F# minor

Section A repeats

Section B (bar 16 to end):

- Begins in F# minor. Motif X on flute establishes the key
- Motif X passed between flute and cello, moving through keys
- Motif Y on flute used to modulate to relative major (D)
- Flute and violin play the melody, cello has motif X
- Motif X and Motif Y modified and used to modulate back to home/tonic key (B minor)
- Perfect cadence in home key, cello has Motif X

Section B repeats

- Final perfect cadence in home key
- Ornament/suspension on flute

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For more information about concerts, education projects, resources and recordings, visit lpo.org.uk

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