

MUSICAL TEXTURES

All examples are taken from the music of J.S.Bach

Monophony (adj: monophonic)

Music for a single voice or part with no accompaniment.

Ex.1



Suite No.1 for unaccompanied Cello

Homophony (adj. homophonic)

a) Music where all the parts move at the same time

Ex.2

Musical score for Ex.2, Motet Jesu, meine Freude, 5th movement. It consists of five staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The first four staves are vocal parts, and the fifth staff is a basso continuo part. All parts move in unison. The lyrics are: "Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver - damm - li - ches an". The score includes dynamic markings of *p* and *f*.

Motet Jesu, meine Freude, 5th movement

b) Music where there is a melody with accompanying (homophonic) harmony

[melody-dominated homophony].

Ex.3

Musical score for Ex.3, Italian Concerto (for harpsichord), 2nd movement. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff is the right hand, featuring a melodic line with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The second staff is the left hand, providing a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Italian Concerto (for harpsichord), 2nd movement

Polyphony (adj. polyphonic)

Music where two or more parts move independently of each other.

Ex.4



Variations on Sei gegrüßet, for organ

Ex.5



Trio in D minor for organ

Specific types of polyphony include canon (or canonic writing) ...

Ex.6



Variation No.18 from the Goldberg Variations

... imitation (or imitative polyphony) ...

See Ex.5, above

... and fugue.

Ex.7



Fugue No.22 from Das Wohltemperierte Klavier

Antiphony (adj. antiphonal)

Music where two parts (or groups of parts) alternate with the same or similar material.

Ex.8

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nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len, wie

nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len, wie

nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len, wie

nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len, wie

wir wis - sen nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len,

wir wis - sen nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len,

wir wis - sen nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len,

wir wis - sen nicht, was wir be - ten sol - len,

Motet Der Geist hilft

Heterophony (adj. heterophonic)

Two or more voices simultaneously performing variations of the same melody.

Ex.9

52

tr

da - - - rum lass' ich Je - sum nicht

Je - - - sum nicht

Cantata No.147, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben