

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons in purple, teal, and maroon colors, each with a string of streamers and small triangular flags trailing behind them.

# George Frederick Handel

- Born in Halle, Germany in 1685
- Died in London, England in 1759



# Handel's Life

- 1685 – born in Germany
- 1703 – Hamburg opera house, wrote his first opera
- 1706 – went to Italy, studied with Vivaldi and Scarlatti



# Handel's Life

- 1710 – took a job with George, the Elector of Hanover, took a short trip to England
- 1712 – got permission to take a longer trip to England, didn't come back



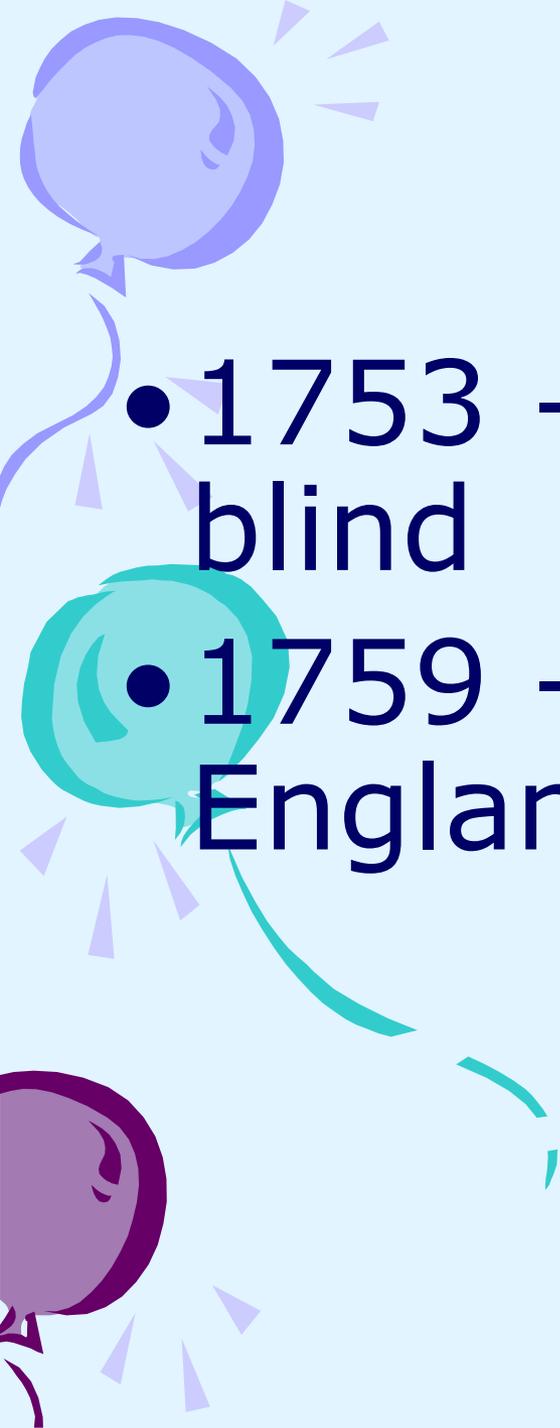
# Handel's Life

- 1714 – Queen Anne died, George became new King of England, Handel in big trouble
- 1717 – reconciled with George and wrote Water Music as peace offering



# Handel's Life

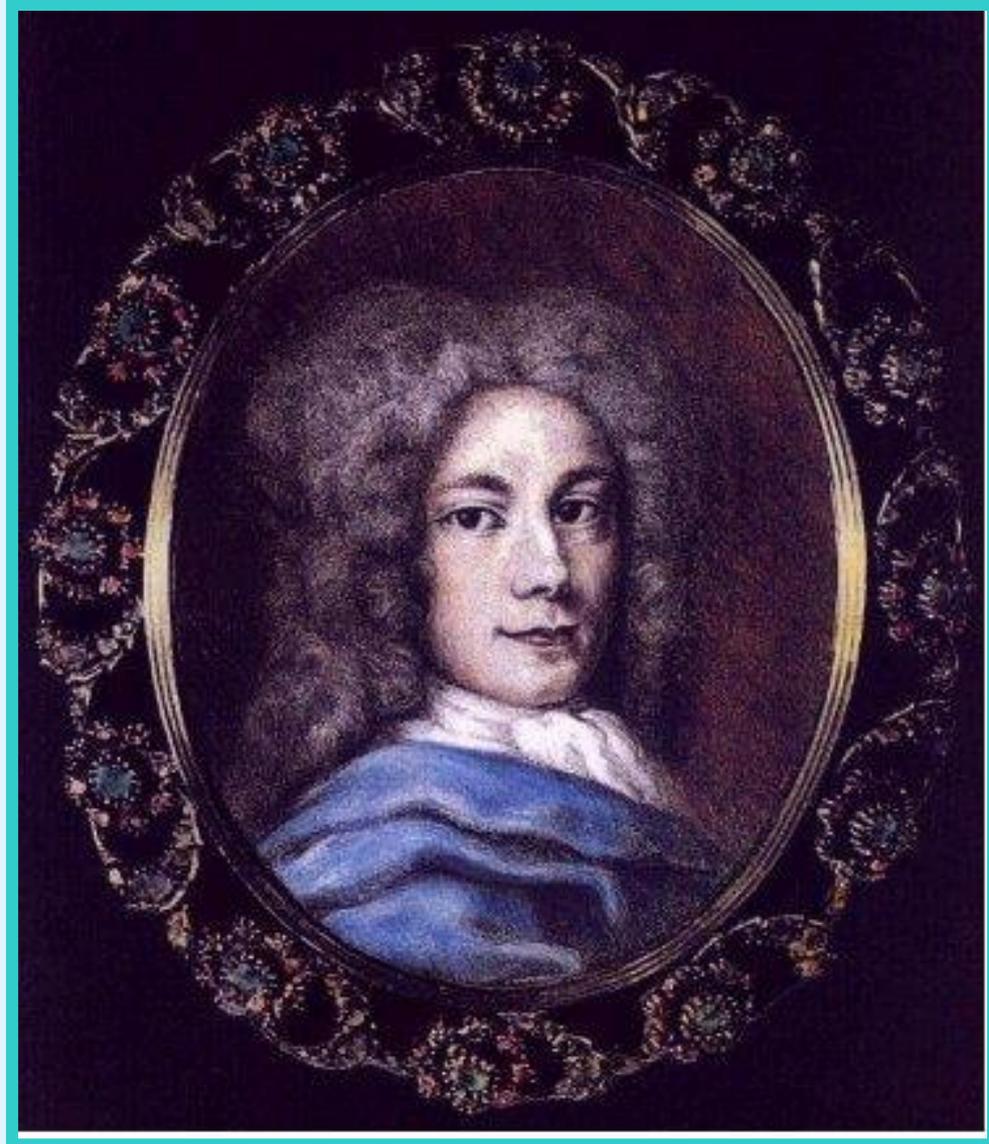
- 1726 – Became English citizen
- 1741 – began writing oratorios, Messiah finished in September
- 1742 – Messiah premiered in Dublin, Ireland



# Handel's Life

- 1753 – became totally blind
- 1759 – died in London England

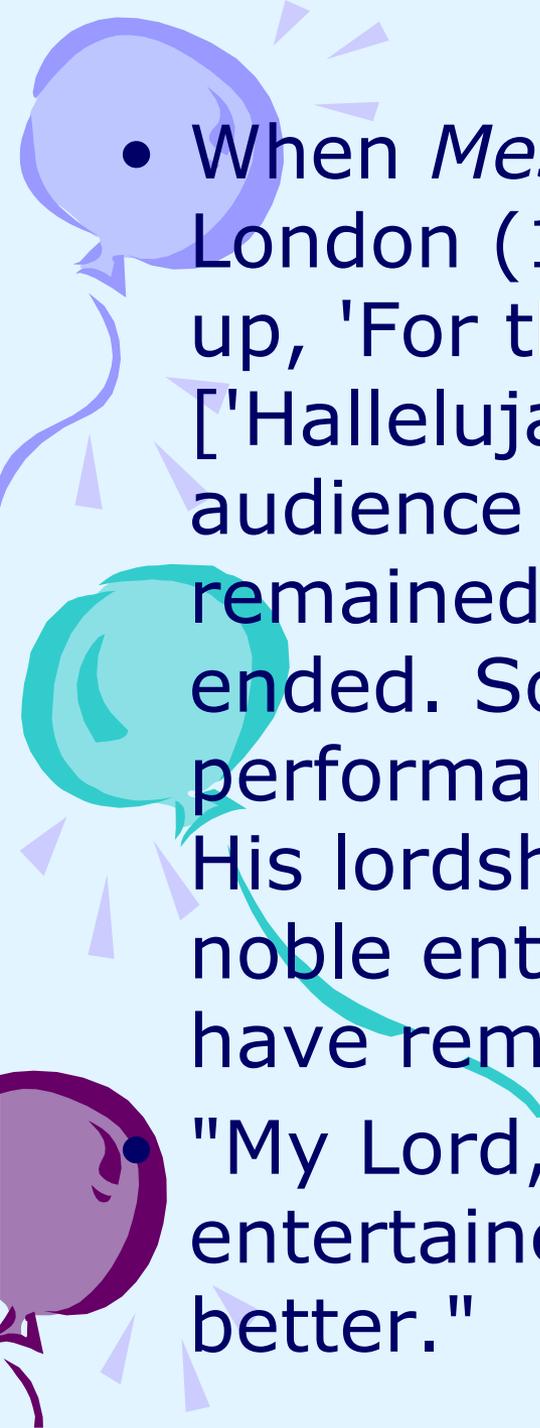
# George Frederick Handel



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- An English singer (named, Gordon) complained of Handel's method of accompanying. If Handel persisted in accompanying him in this manner, he threatened to jump on Handel's harpsichord and smash it to pieces. Handel is said to have replied,
    - "Oh! Let me know when you will do that, and I will advertise it. For I am sure more people will come to see you jump, than to hear you sing."

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- On composing the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from *Messiah*, Handel is said to have remarked (1741),
  - "Whether I was in my body or out of my body as I wrote it I know not. God knows."
  - On composing *Messiah*, Handel is said to have remarked (1741),
  - "I did think I did see all Heaven before me and the great God Himself."

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- A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons in shades of purple, teal, and maroon, with streamers and small triangular flags trailing from them.
- A friend, called upon Handel when he was in the act of setting to music the words, *'He was despised and rejected of men.'* The friend reports that he "found him absolutely sobbing."



- When *Messiah* was first performed in London (1743), when the chorus struck up, 'For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth' ['Hallelujah Chorus'], reportedly the audience and King [George II] stood and remained standing until the chorus had ended. Some days after the first performance, Handel visited Lord Kinnoul. His lordship paid him compliments on "the noble entertainment". Handel is said to have remarked,

- "My Lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them; I wished to make them better."

# George Frederick Handel



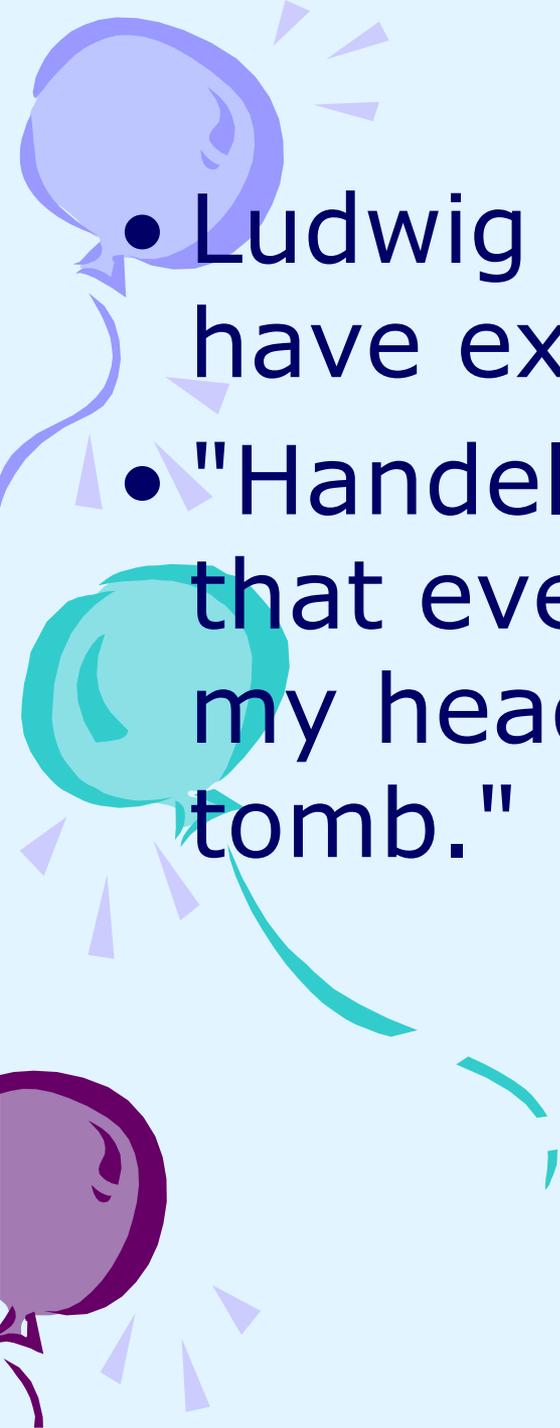
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- Finding it convenient to dine at a tavern, Handel ordered dinner for three. The wait became so long, he became impatient and sent for the host. "Why do you keep me so long waiting?" he asked, with the impetuosity of a hungry man. "We are waiting till the company arrives," replied the innkeeper.
  - "Then bring up the dinner, *prestissimo*, said Handel, "I am the company."

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- A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons in shades of purple, teal, and maroon, with streamers and small triangular flags trailing behind them.
- Handel's general look was somewhat heavy and sour; but when he did smile, it was his sire the sun, bursting out of a black cloud. There was a sudden flash of intelligence, wit, and good humour, beaming in his countenance, which I hardly saw in any other.

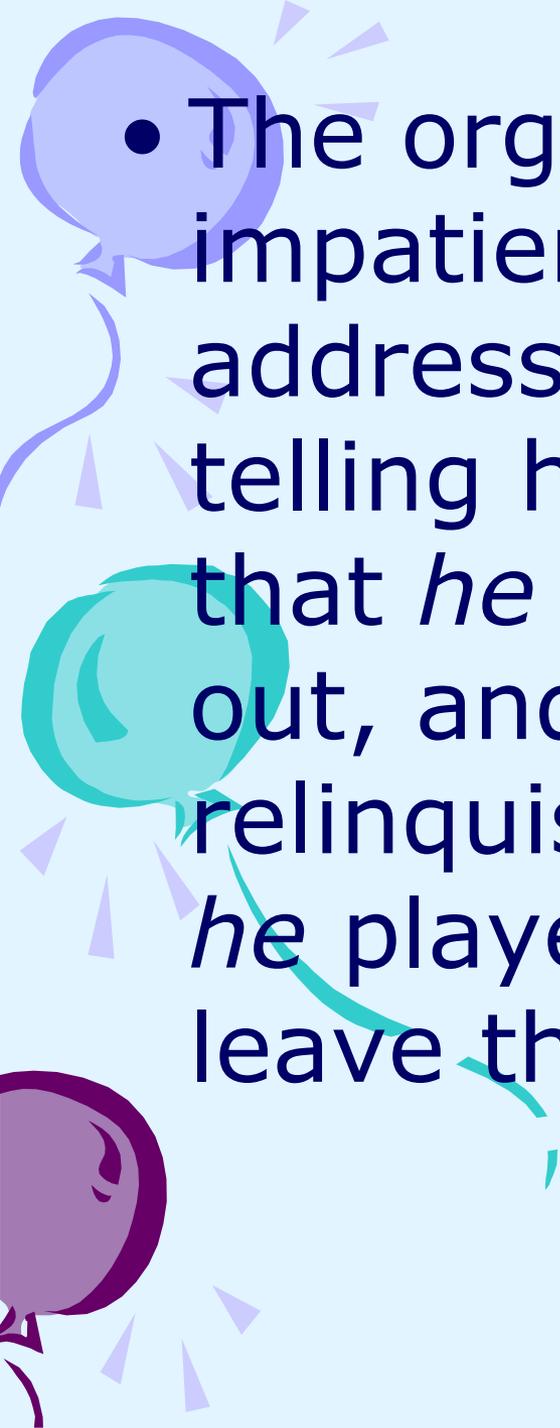
# George Frederick Handel



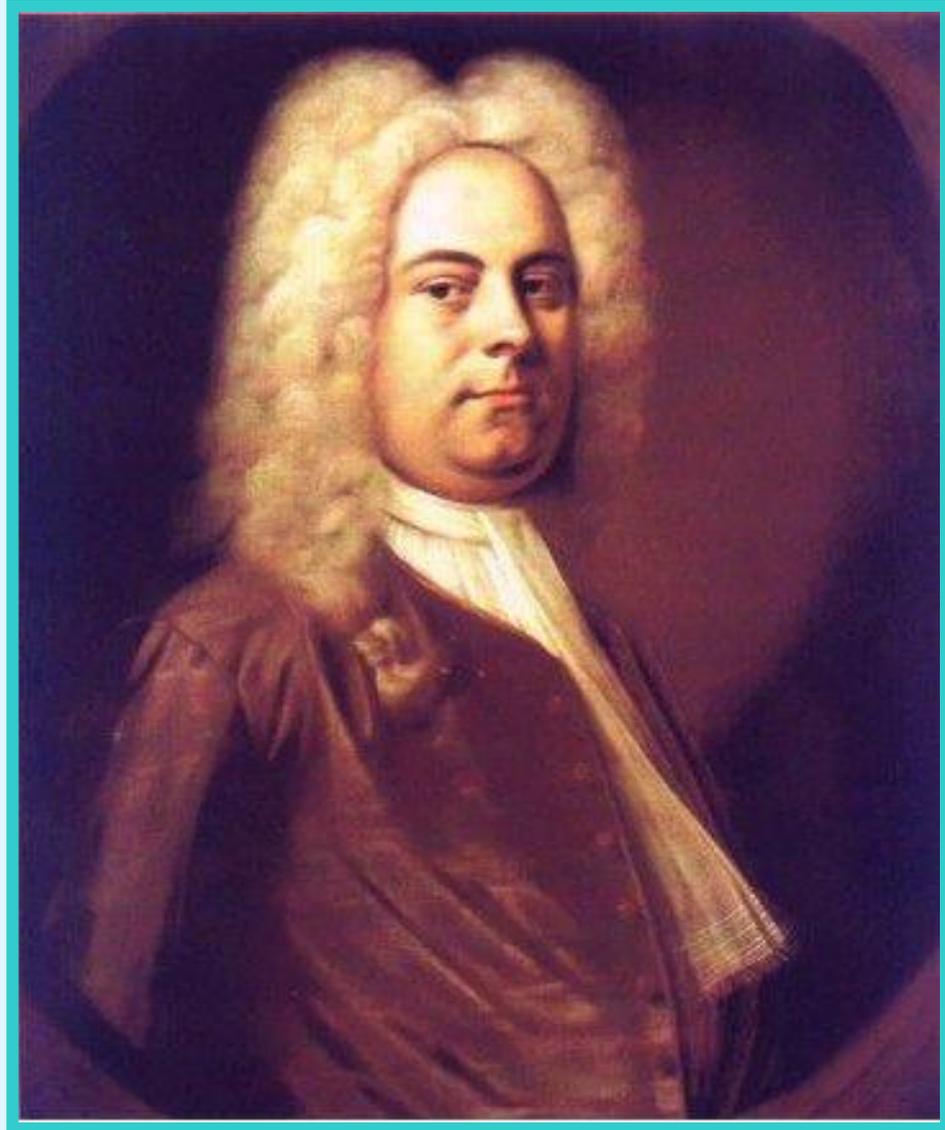
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- Johann Sebastian Bach is attributed with the following remark:
  - "[Handel] is the only person I would wish to see before I die, and the only person I would wish to be, were I not Bach."
  - Upon hearing the above statement, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is said to have exclaimed:
  - "Truly, I would say the same myself if I were permitted to put in a word"

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- Ludwig van Beethoven is said to have exclaimed,
  - "Handel is the greatest composer that ever lived... I would uncover my head and kneel down on his tomb."

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- One Sunday, having attended worship at a country church, Handel asked the organist to permit him to play as the congregation departed; to which he readily consented. Handel, accordingly, sat down to the organ, and began to play in such a masterly manner, as instantly to attract the attention of the whole congregation, who, instead of vacating their seats as usual, remained for a considerable space of time, fixed in silent admiration.

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- The organist began to be impatient and, at length, addressed the great performer, telling him, he was convinced that *he* could not play the people out, and advised him to relinquish the attempt; for while *he* played, they would never leave the church.

# George Frederick Handel



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- When John Christopher Smith (1712-95; Handel's assistant) played the organ at the Theatre, during the first year of Handel's blindness, *Samson* was performed, and (the tenor John) Beard sang, with great feeling,
  - *Total eclipse - no sun, no moon  
All dark, amidst the blaze of noon*
  - The recollection that Handel had set this air to music, with the view of the blind composer then sitting by the organ, affected the audience so forcibly, that many persons present were moved even to tears.

# George Frederick Handel





- Handel is not a mere composer in England: he is an institution. What is more, he is a sacred institution.



- Handel came from Germany, learned in Italy, adopted many things from France, and finally, became 'perfect' in Great Britain. A real cosmopolitan....

In the Name of God Amen

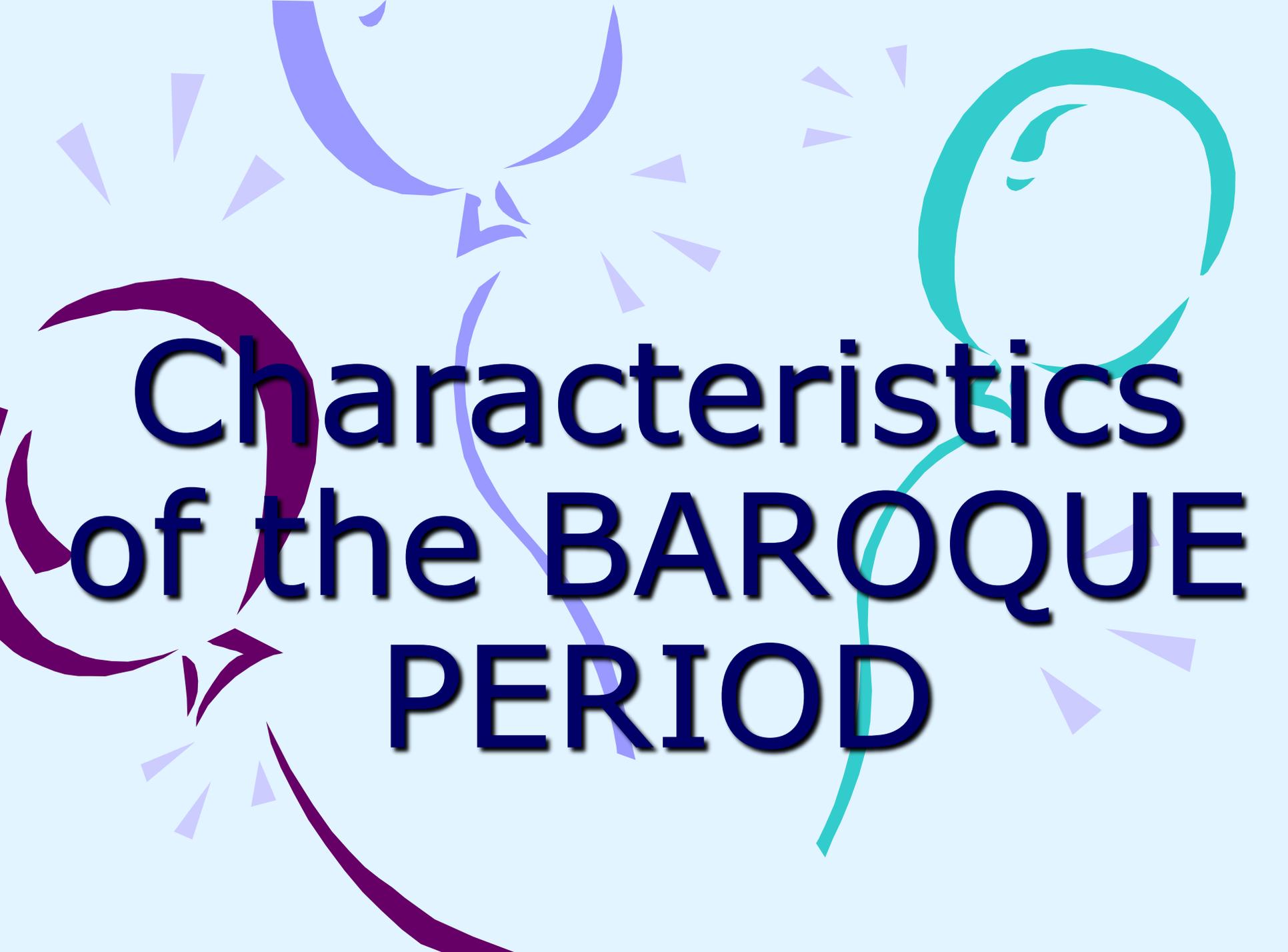
I George Frideric Handel considering the  
Uncertainty of human Life doe make this my  
Will in manner following

viz.

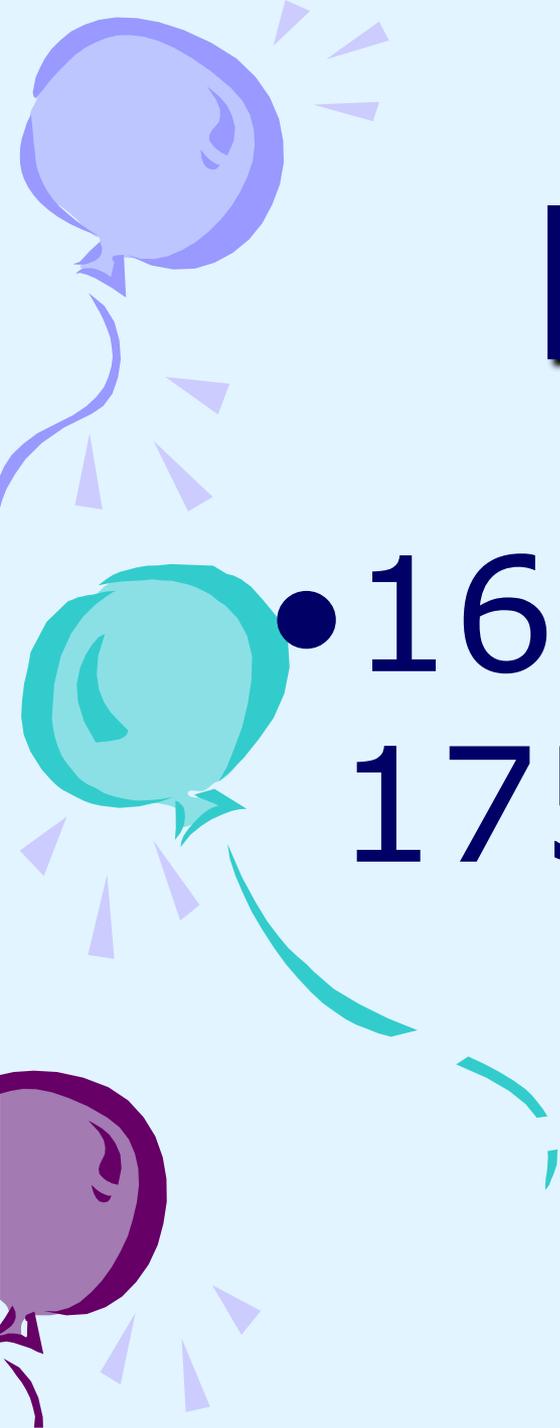
I give and bequeath unto my servant  
Peter le B'ard, my clothes and Linnen, and  
three hundred Pounds sterl: and to my other  
servants a Year Wages

I give and bequeath to Mr Christopher Smith  
my large Harpsicord, my little Hou's Organ, my  
Musick Books, and five hundred Pounds sterl:

I give and bequeath to Mr James Hunter  
~~the sum of five hundred Pounds sterl:~~  
five hundred Pounds sterl:



# Characteristics of the BAROQUE PERIOD



# Dates

- 1600 through 1750



# Forms

- Concerto Grosso
- Fugue
- Oratorio



# Rhythm

- Forward rhythmic drive
- Few, if any, tempo changes



# Melody

- One melodic idea



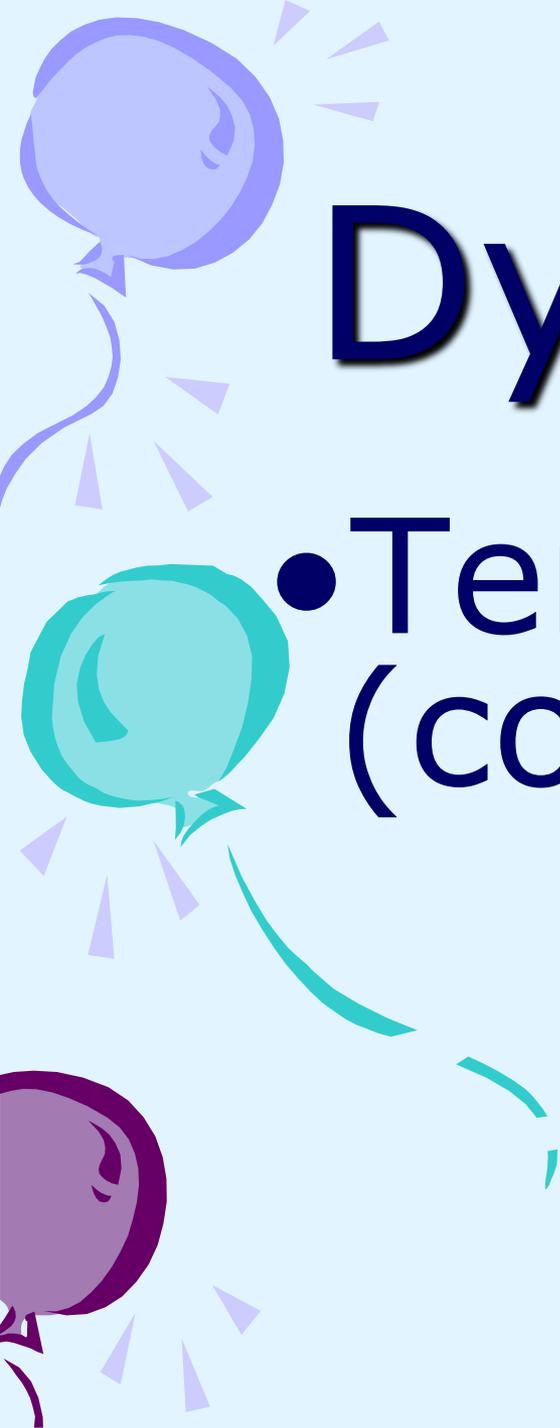
# Texture

- Balance of homophonic and polyphonic



# Timbre

- Strings and winds  
(brass and woodwinds)



# Dynamics

- Terraced dynamics (contrasting levels)



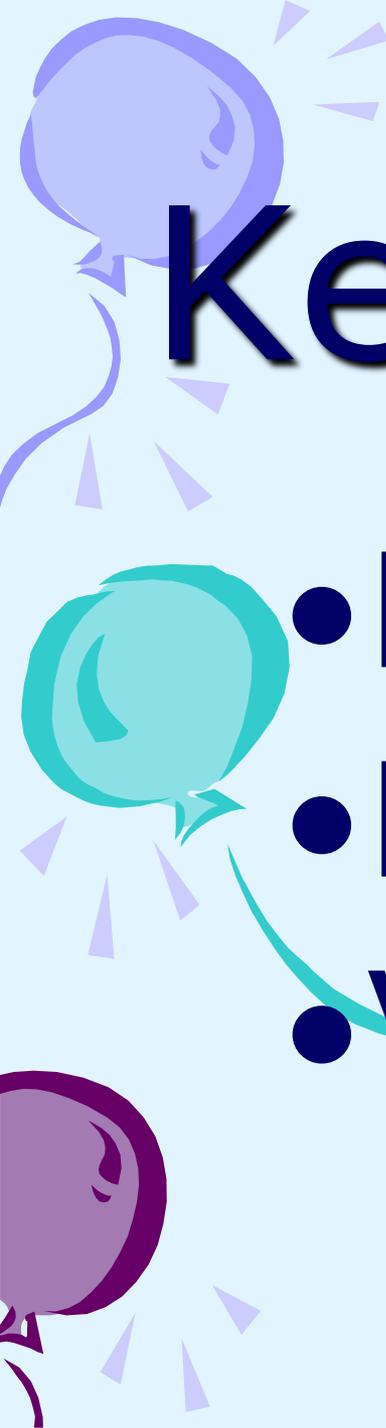
# Key instrument

- Harpsichord

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a purple one at the top, a teal one in the middle, and a dark purple one at the bottom. Each balloon is attached to a streamer with several small, triangular flags. The balloons and streamers are positioned to the left of the main text.

# Key ideas

- We'll come back to this one later



# Key composers

- Bach
- Handel
- Vivaldi