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Architecture and music in the Baroque period

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Abstract

The disciplines of architecture and music interact with each other throughout history. Works of architecture and music are influenced by the semantic and historic features of the period lived in. Composers and architects create their works taking advantage of the stylistic or conceptual data. In both of these disciplines ideas result in concrete products by means of different tools. Baroque era covers the period from 1580 to 1750. In contrast to the balanced and rational attitude of the Renaissance, during Baroque period dynamic, glitzy and dramatic elements have been used. Features of this period are evident in architecture and music as well as other branches of art. This research comprises the examination of the effects of Baroque features on musical and architectural pieces. The study addresses with examples the architectural highlights of the Baroque era in Italy, and the art of J.S. Bach's fugues.

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1. Introduction

For The word Baroque comes from the Portuguese word barroco meaning "imperfect, irregular pearl". In addition to Italy, Baroque art has been interpreted in France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Poland and Russia (Germaner, 1997). In contrast to the balanced, rational, and straight lines of Renaissance, we see dynamic, dramatic, flashy items, and undulations are observed on facades. Sculptural facades and decorative schemes emerge to the foreground (Hasol, 2008).

2. Architecture in the Baroque period

Baroque architecture emerged in Italy as a reaction to the strict rules of the Renaissance. Rome is regarded as the birthplace of Baroque art which spanned all of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th (Hasol, 2008). In examples of Baroque architecture curved lines, surfaces and motion created through light add rhythm to the structure. Curved lines dominate not just the facades but the floor plans as well. During the Baroque period oval plans replace the rectangular schematic of the Renaissance. Especially the interiors of the structures are full of light.

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