

BAROQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1600 - 1750 Timeline Overview

c. 1600

The Harpsichord & Basso Continuo

Establishment of the keyboard as the harmonic foundation. Introduction of figured bass notation.

c. 1650

The Cremonese Violin Family

Refinement by Amati and Stradivari. The violin replaces the viol as the dominant string instrument.

c. 1670

The Baroque Oboe (Hautbois)

Developed in the French court from the shawm. Features a narrower bore and two keys.

c. 1690

The Transverse Flute (Traverso)

Transition from recorder to the conical wooden flute with a single D# key.

c. 1710

Natural Trumpet & Horn

Valveless brass instruments used primarily in "Clarino" registers for melodic lines.

c. 1750

Late Baroque Cello

Standardization of size and tuning, leading into the transition toward the Classical Period.