MUSIC FOR A WHILE

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VOCABULARY LIST

CONTEXT

- **Incidental music:** Music to be performed as part of a play.
- **Secular:** Music used for a non-religious occasion.

PERFORMING FORCES

- **Continuo:** A bass part played by one or more bass and/or chordal instruments in Baroque music.
- **Improvisation:** A line that is not notated but freely chosen by the performer.
- **Arpeggiated chords:** A spread chord, normally from the bottom to the top.

MELODY AND WORD SETTING

- **Ornaments:** Notes that decorate a melody.
- **Mordent:** An ornament played as a rapid wiggle from the printed note to the note above and back.
- **Appoggiatura:** A 'leaning' note. An expressive dissonance that moves by step to resolve onto a note of the current chord.
- **Word painting:** How the music reflects the meaning of a word or phrase in a text.
- **Melisma:** When several notes are sung to the same syllable.

VOCABULARY LIST

STRUCTURE

- **Ground bass:** A constantly repeating bass pattern above which a melody unfolds. Popular in the Baroque.
- **Da capo aria:** A song with a ternary structure (ABA).

HARMONY AND TONALITY

- **Figured bass:** A basso continuo part with figures and symbols to indicate the harmonies of the music.
- **Dissonance:** Sounds that are not pleasant when played together.
- **Suspension:** A note that is held over to a chord in which it doesn't belong, creating a dissonance that is then resolved.
- **Tierce de picardie:** When a piece in a minor key ends with the tonic major chord.
- **Cadential 6/4:** A perfect cadence using chords IC-V-I.
- **Chromatic:** Notes that don't belong to the key or move by semitones.
- **Non-diatonic:** Notes that don't belong to a key.
- **Perfect cadence:** Chords V-I. A chord pattern that makes a phrase sound finished.

TEXTURE

- **Melody dominated homophony:** Melody and accompaniment.
- **Counterpoint:** 2 or more different lines occurring simultaneously.