

Handel - composed in 1741.

The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



MELODY

Melody 1: outlines key of A major.



Melody 2: sequence, melisma (lots of notes per syllable)



Melody 3: repetition, simple idea.



Melody 4: long, repeated As. Emphasises the words.



RHYTHM

Three beats in a bar - dance-like metre.

Maintains a fast tempo until the end where there is a general pause before a slower, drawn out ending.

INSTRUMENTS

Four voice types are:
Soprano (high female)
Alto (low female)
Tenor (high male)
Bass (low male)

Accompanied by strings (violins, violas) and continuo (cello and organ)

The orchestra often doubles the voices.

GENRE

This is a famous chorus from Handel's Messiah.

The Messiah is an example of an oratorio.



Remember, we had biscuits that lesson...
Baroque music.

Religious importance.

TEXTURE

The piece alternates between homophonic and polyphonic textures.

Very occasionally uses monophonic texture. (11-13)

Handel uses imitation (copied but overlaps)

Number of parts throughout the piece varies - texture builds up as more parts are added.

HARMONY AND TONALITY

The piece is in A major. (Bright sounding key)
Modulates to E major and B major (closely related keys)
Harmony is diatonic (notes that belong to the key)

STRUCTURE

Starts with an orchestral introduction.
Based on different combinations of the four main melodies.