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Bach - 'Brandenburg Concerto'

Background info

- Baroque
- Secular works
- Chamber music
- Composed between 1711 and 1720
- Worked in a number of musical jobs
  - *Music director*
  - *Kappelmeister (Court music director)*
  - *Church organist*
  - *Composer*

Melody

- Diatonic
- Few countermelodies
- Harpsichord has occasional ornaments
- Conjunct style
- Scalic runs especially in the harpsichord part
- Based on two themes
- Ornamented melody

Texture

- Sequences and ornaments
- Two-part texture
- Polyphonic/ Contrapuntal
- Begins in a fugal style
- Often imitative

Tempo, metre and rhythm

- Many semiquaver runs especially in the harpsichord part
- 2/4 metre
  - *Can be confused for 6/8 due to use of triplets*
- Continuous use of triplets and dotted rhythms
- Typically based on gigues

Harmony

- Root position and first inversion chords
- Uses the standard chords of the time
- Functional
- Occasional suspensions
- Predominantly diatonic
- Secondary dominant chords are common chromatic chords

Tonality

- Diatonic
  - *Predominant key in most of the A sections*
- D major
- Section B modulates to the dominant and relative minor

Performing forces

- This piece is a concerto grosso
- Includes a concertino
- Extended virtuoso for harpsichord
- Continuo
- Figured bass on harpsichord
- Includes a ripieno
- No dynamic markings for harpsichord as in that time, the harpsichord has no dynamic ability

Structure

- Ternary form (ABA')
  - *Section A: B.1-78*
  - *Section B: B.79-232*
  - *Section A': B.233-end*