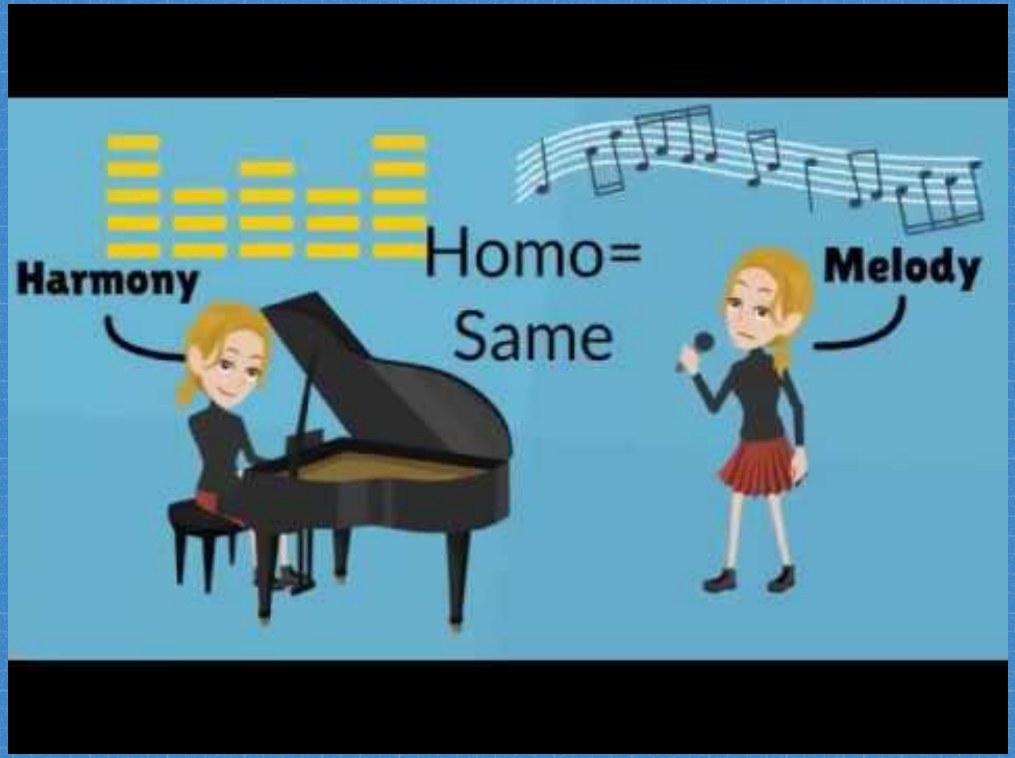
TEXTURE

TEXTURE Layers of musical sound



Musical Texture (Definition of Monophonic, Homophonic, Polyphonic, Heterophonic Textures)

https://youtu.be/teh22szdnRQ

TEXTURE

- Texture is the number of parts playing
- It refers to whether each line is a melody or harmony part
- Texture refers to how each part relates to each other

MONOPHONIC (adjective)
MONOPHONY (noun)

Monophonic means that there is one melodic line with no harmony or melodic accompaniment. If multiple voices or instruments are playing in unison, it is still Monophonic.

Examples of monophonic music

- Singing solo a capella
- Gregorian chant
- Unaccompanied instrumental sonatas

HOMOPHONIC (adjective)
HOMOPHONY (noun)

One melodic line that draws your attention. All other parts provide accompaniment and fill in the chords.

- Homophonic means there is one main melody with a less important accompaniment
- Accompaniment could be as simple as chords, or it could be more complex
- If a line in the accompaniment starts to stand out and become more important, then the texture changes to polyphonic

Examples of homophonic music: melody and accompaniment, traditional hymn arrangements

POLYPHONIC (adjective)
POLYPHONY (noun)

Two different melodies occurring simultaneously.

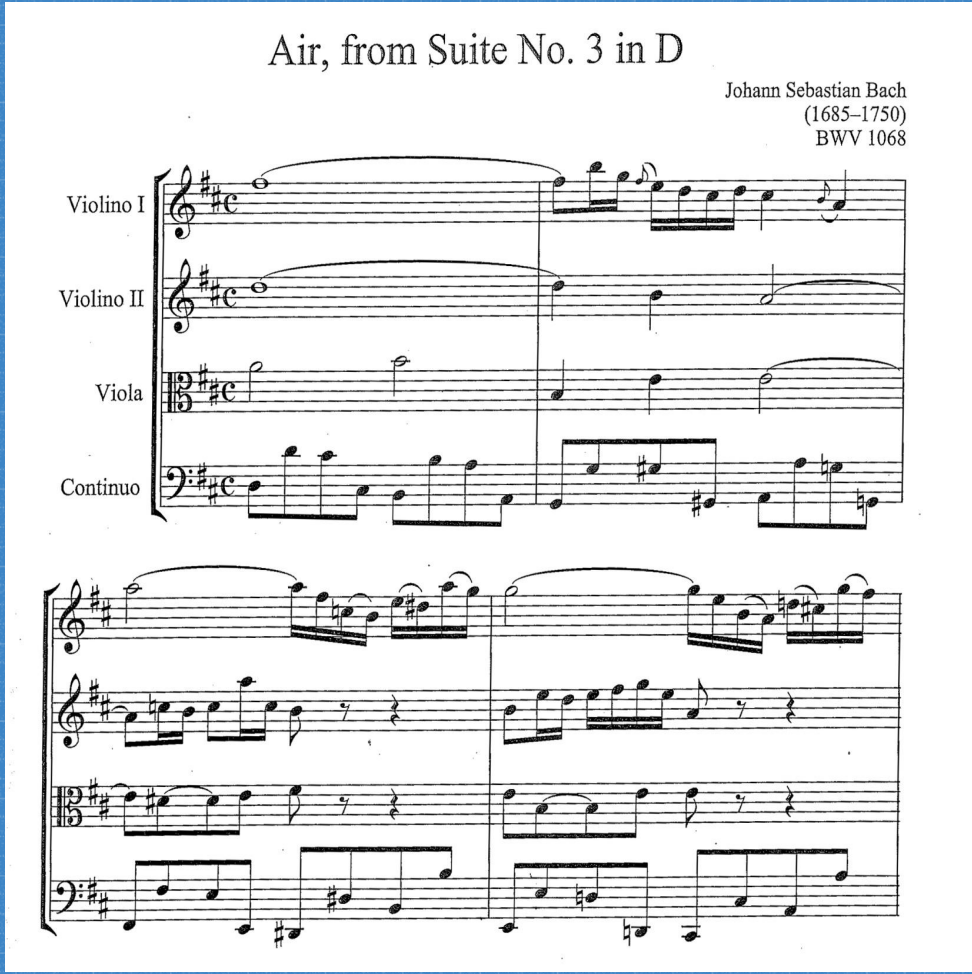
Two main kinds of polyphony –imitative and non-imitative

- Polyphonic means that there are two or more melodic lines of equal importance
- Technique of writing several melodic lines that interact is called counterpoint
- Often uses imitation, which is when one voice or instrument presents a melodic idea, then another voice repeats it
- Not always exact imitation

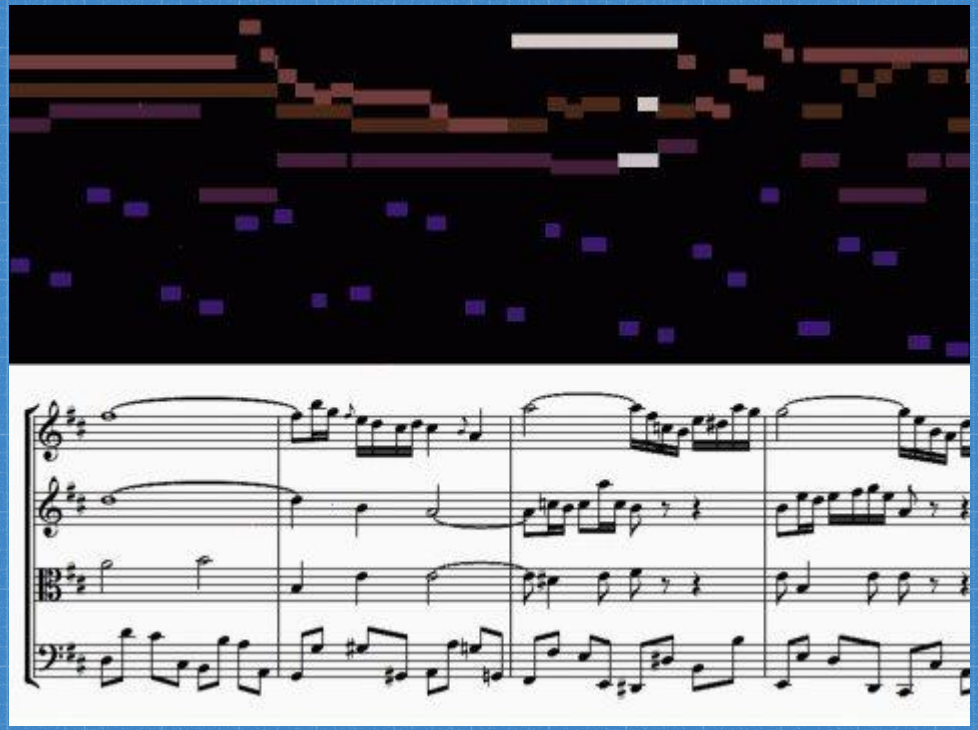
Examples of polyphonic music: rounds, fugues, canons, partner songs

CONTRAPUNTAL (adjective)
COUNTERPOINT (noun)

The practice of composing polyphonic music, and the texture that results. Musical lines that are distinct from each other but sound harmonious when played together.



Bach, Air ("on the G string", string orchestra)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2j-frfK-yg

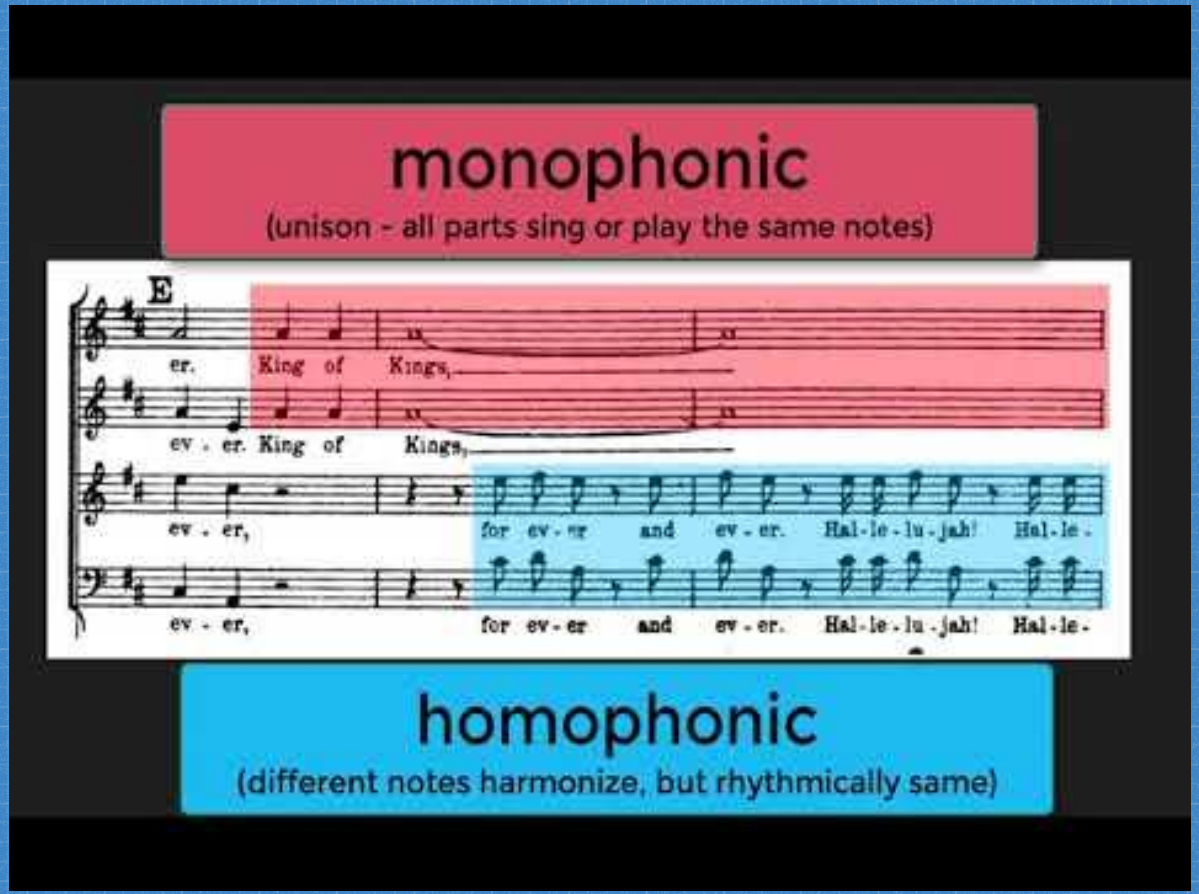


HETEROPHONIC (adjective)
HETEROPHONY (noun)

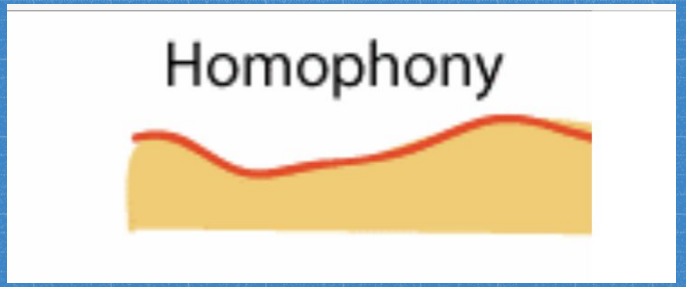
One melody but different variations of it being sung or played at the same time. Often used in Bluegrass, Cajun and Zydeco music.

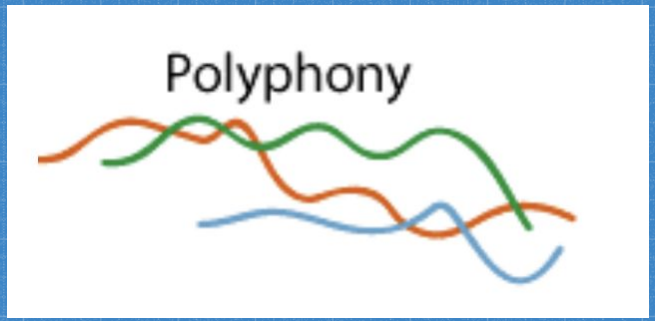
Such a texture can be regarded as a kind of complex monophony in which there is only one basic melody, but realized at the same time in multiple voices, each of which plays the melody differently, either in a different rhythm or tempo, or with various embellishments and elaborations

Different Musical Textures in Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus - https://youtu.be/QbT7eTS16T8




Monophony


Homophony


Polyphony


Heterophony