

## Instrumental types, 17<sup>th</sup> century

(N.B.—these are very general designations whose meaning was not highly fixed)

### Abstract genres:

#### I. imitative types

- Ricercare** serious, learned work, non-sectional and strictly contrapuntally imitative; very little passagework; long note-values
- Fantasia** sometimes begins similarly to ricercare, but can be freer; as it progresses musically often will employ diminutions
- Capriccio** similar to Fantasia, but musically more unpredictable and quirky

#### II. improvisatory types

- Toccata, Prelude, Fantasia** (same term as above; could refer to either)  
unmeasured, free improvisatory style

#### III. variation types

- Partite (Partitas)** set of variations
- Passacaglia (Passacaille)**  
Spanish triple time newer dance using short repeating bass line (ostinato)
- Ciacona (Chaconne)**  
similar to passacaglia

#### IV. Sectional types

- Canzona, Sonata** Sectional works with contrasting sections; instrumental equivalents of cantatas; usually include imitative sections like cantatas, for one or two solo instruments with continuo

#### Dance types (cultivated heavily in France)

(passacaglia and ciacona, above, also initially had dance origins)

- Allemande** (means “German), in common time, more figured, older and removed from actual dancing, slow and stylized, begin with upbeat and in constantly moving eighth or sixteenth notes
- Courante** less figured than allemande, faster, syncopation over barline, moderate triple or compound meter, begins with upbeat, often includes hemiola
- Sarabande** originated in Latin America, slow, stress on second beat, least figural, most chordal, triple time
- Gigue** originated in Great Britain, in triple time or fast compound meter, usually moderately fast, often beginning with fugal imitation
- Menuet** in moderate triple time

#### passagework/diminutions/divisions/figuration

Different terms indicating elaboration of chords or melodies using smaller note values (diminutions), usually associated with an improvisatory tradition