



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London

Royal College of Music Museum

My Baroque Activity Book



What is Baroque music?

'Baroque' is a period of history (and music) that lasted for about 150 years, from 1600-1750. That's a long time ago! Music from this time sounded quite busy. Musicians would add musical decorations to melodies, like trills.

One instrument that was often heard in Baroque music was the **harpsichord**.

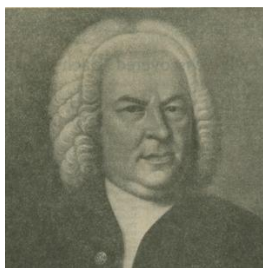
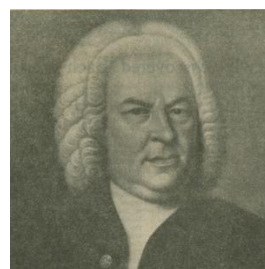
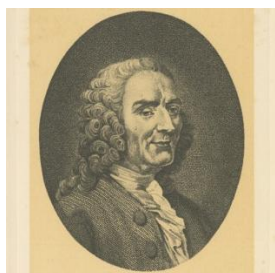
Before the piano even existed, harpsichords were the most popular keyboard instrument. The strings inside are plucked, giving it a bright sound.

During the Baroque period, some very talented composers wrote great music, including Antonio Vivaldi who wrote *The Four Seasons*, Johann Sebastian Bach who wrote the *Brandenburg Concertos* and George Frederic Handel who wrote a sung piece called *The Messiah*.



Match the composer

Can you match these Baroque composer's faces?



Guitars

An instrument that appeared for the first time during the Baroque period was the guitar! They were often covered in patterns and decoration.

I'm the
oldest
surviving
guitar in the
world!

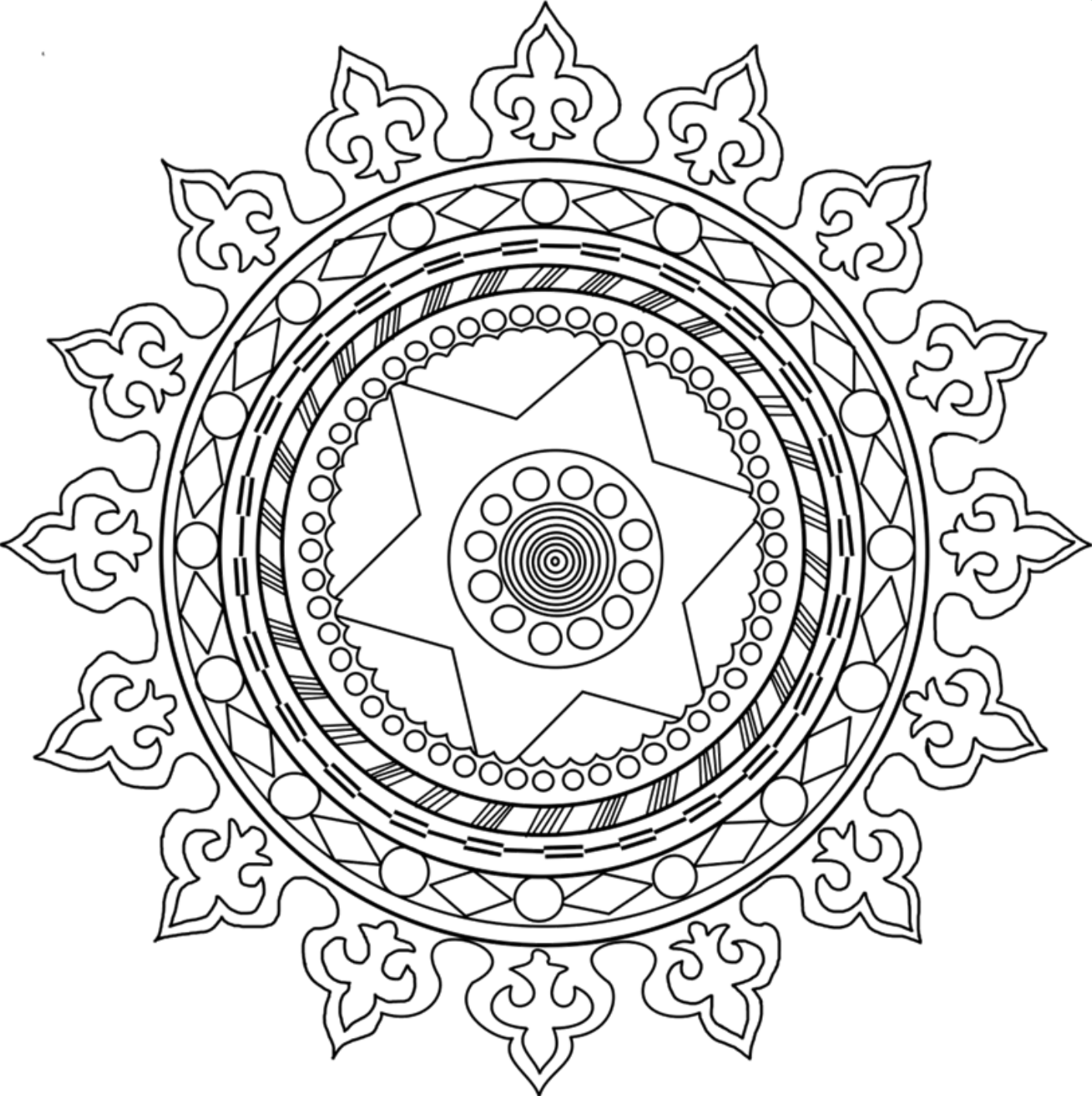


Which of our Baroque guitars is your favourite?

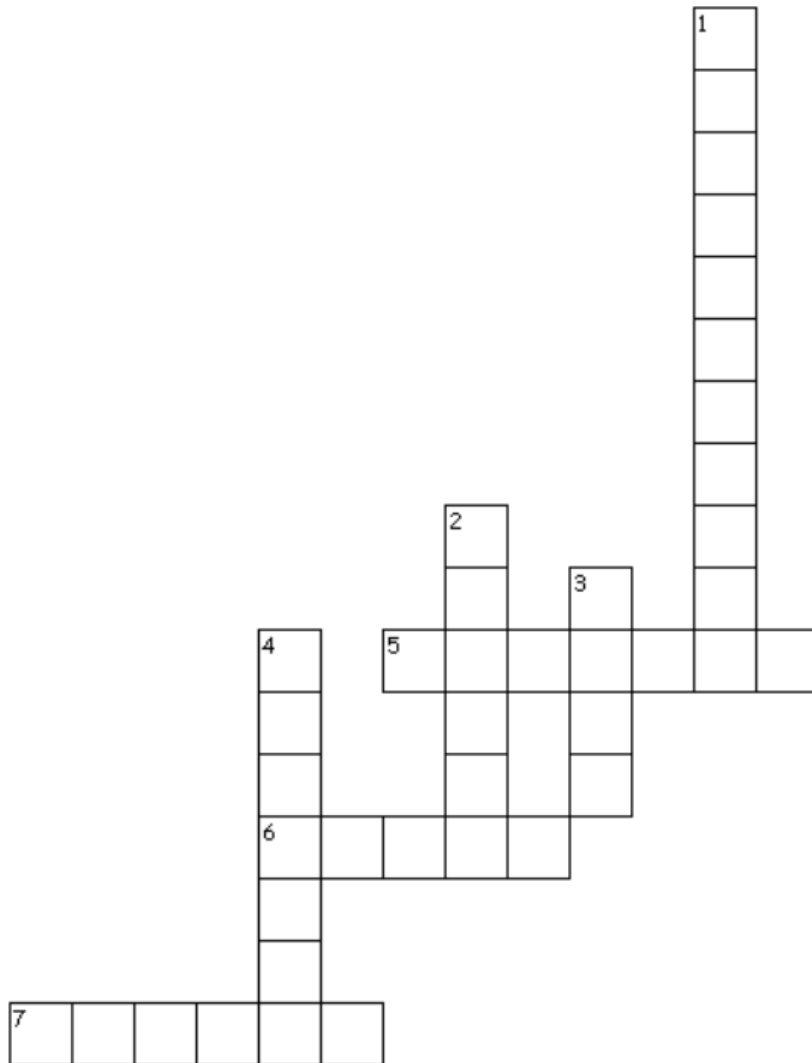
Guitars would often accompany singers with chords. These singers would sometimes perform famous tunes from an **opera** (a play where the words are sung).

Let's colour!

Colour in the flower on one of Baroque guitars!



Baroque brainteaser



ACROSS

5. Composer of *The Four Seasons* (surname) (7)
6. A play in which the words are sung (5)
7. Composer of *The Messiah* (surname) (6)

DOWN

1. Popular baroque keyboard instrument (11)
2. Plucked string instrument still popular today (6)
3. Composer of *The Brandenburg Concertos* (surname) (4)
4. Musical period between 1600 & 1750 (7)

Let's dance!

Dance was an important part of upper-class society in the Baroque era. It was seen as an essential skill - so nobles often employed **dance masters** to teach them the latest dances.



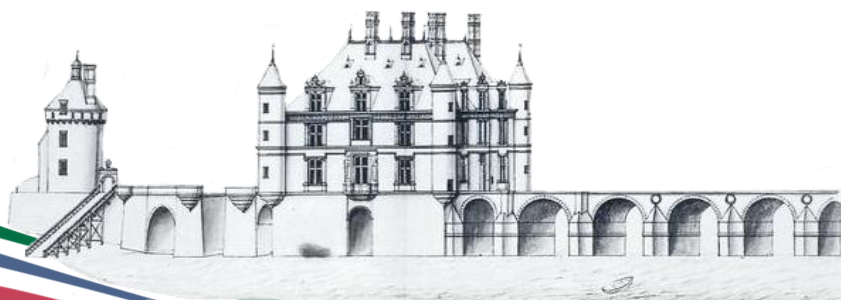
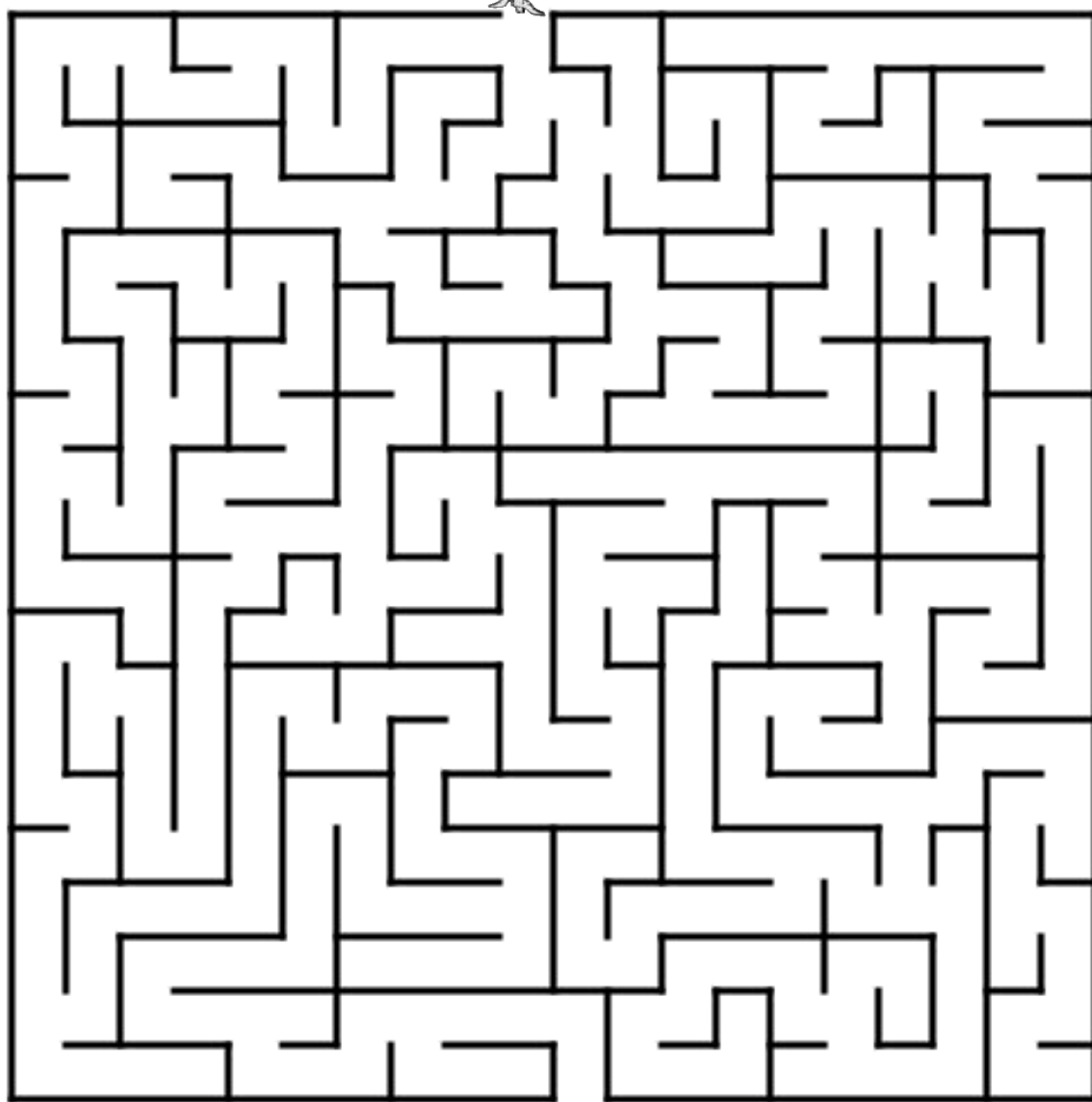
Why not create your own dance to some Baroque music?

TRY: J.S. Bach's *English Suites*



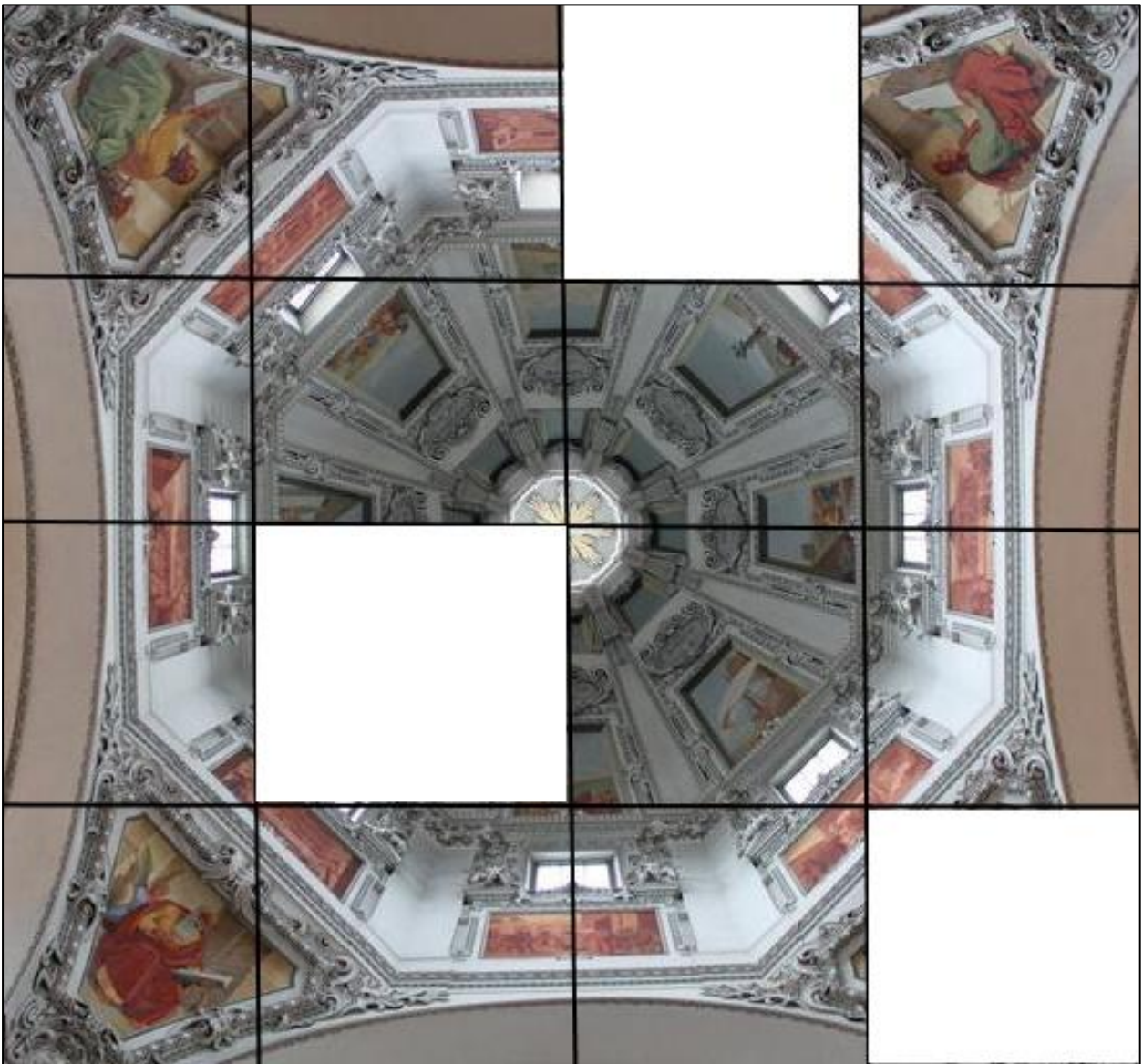
Louis' labyrinth

Dance master Pierre is late to the palace to teach King Louis a new dance! Can you help him find his way?



Finish the ceiling

Art and architecture in the Baroque period were also very decorative. Use a pencil and fill in the empty squares to complete the ceiling!



Magnifico!

Congratulations, you've completed your Baroque Activity Book!
Visit us at www.rcm.ac.uk/museum for more activities and to learn more about our collection.

Solutions:

Baroque brainteaser

