

EXPLANATION 3.3: THE DA CAPO ARIA AND OTHER TYPES OF ARIAS.

THE ARIA

The aria in the operas is the part sung by the soloist. It is opposed to the recitative, which uses the recitative style. In the arias the composer shows and exploits the dramatic and emotional situations, it becomes the equivalent of a soliloquy (one person speech) in the spoken plays.

In the arias, the interpreters showed their technique, they showed off, even in excess, which provoked a lot of criticism from poets and musicians. They were often sung by castrati: soprano men undergoing a surgical operation so as not to change their voice when they grew up. One of them, the most famous, Farinelli, acquired international fame for his great technique and vocal expression. He lived twenty-five years in Spain.

THE DA CAPO ARIA

The Da Capo aria is a vocal work in three parts or sections (tripartite form). It began to be used in the Baroque in operas, oratorios and cantatas. The form is A - B - A, the last part being a repetition of the first.

1. The first section is a complete musical entity, that is to say, it could be sung alone and musically it would have complete meaning since it ends in the tonic. The tonic is the first grade or note of a scale.
2. The second section contrasts with the first section in tonality, texture, mood and sometimes in tempo (speed).
3. The third section is a Da Capo, that is, repeating the first section from the beginning. The composer usually did not write it again, but wrote "Da Capo". The interpreter, did not to repeat it exactly the same, but decorated it with adornments or variations as an improvisation. It should be remembered that in the Baroque era much of what was played or sung was not written on the score and performers improvised ornaments very differently according to the style of the time or the country they were in.

OTHER TYPES OF ARIA

1. The arias could be not only "Da Capo", but "Dal Segno (from the sign)" where the repetition was part of section A and not the whole section. This is done by writing a sign on the score.
2. Arias that have AB form, that is, binary form.
3. Also extended binary arias, with this form: ABB', where the B' part is like a B but more extensive.
4. Arias according to its character: as the "aria di bravura" named for its technical difficulty or the "aria buffa", for being comical.

COMPREHENSION TEXT QUESTIONS

1. **What is an aria and what does the composer show in them?**
2. **How many parts does the Aria da Capo have?**
3. **Why is it said that the first section could be played alone in a Da Capo aria?**
4. **What is the tonic of a work?**
5. **How is the second section different from the first section in Da Capo arias?**
6. **How are the first and the third sections different in Da Capo arias?**
7. **What is a Da Capo in general?**
8. **What did Baroque interpreters do that what was not written on the score?**
9. **Name 3 types of arias.**