

EMILY PATTYN

CHECKPOINT #1 SCRIPT: SUBMERGE EPISODE 3: BAROQUE POP

[IN: "LET'S GO AWAY FOR A WHILE" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

THE 1960S WERE A TIME OF EXPLORATION. THE POST-WAR TRANSITION LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE-FORMED THINKING. NEARLY EVERY ART PLATFORM WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT STYLES AND PATTERNS. THE BEATLES WERE A GROUP THAT ENCOURAGED AND IMPACTED THE ABSTRACT ART FORMS THAT WERE ARISING IN THE MID-60S. THEY TOOK OVER ALMOST EVERY RADIO STATION WITH THEIR PEACEFUL MESSAGES AND UPLIFTING INSTRUMENTALS.

[OUT: "LET'S GET AWAY FOR A WHILE" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

[IN: "ELEANOR RIGBY" BY THE BEATLES]

THE RELEASE OF "ELEANOR RIGBY" ALTERED THE EXISTING POSITION OF MUSIC, AND FEATURED A COMPLEX ADDITION THAT WAS UNPOPULAR AT THE TIME AND IN THEIR PREVIOUS WORKS. IT WAS UNHEARD OF TO MIX CLASSICAL AND POP RHYTHMS WITH MODERN-DAY LYRICS, AND EVEN MORE UNUSUAL TO SUCCEED IN DOING SO. YET, A MAJORITY OF THE MUSIC LIKE "ELEANOR RIGBY" BECAME INSTANT CLASSICS. THESE COMPOSITIONS FALL INTO THE CATEGORY KNOWN AS "BAROQUE POP."

[OUT: "ELEANOR RIGBY" BY THE BEATLES]

YOU'RE LISTENING TO SUBMERGE, A PODCAST THAT SHOWS THE JOURNEY AND THE EVOLUTION OF SUBGENRES OF MUSIC. THIS EPISODE IS FOCUSED ON THE SUBGENRE KNOWN AS BAROQUE POP.

[IN: "FOUR SEASONS" BY VIVALDI]

TO UNDERSTAND BAROQUE POP, WE MUST BEGIN AT THE BIRTH OF THE ART FORM KNOWN AS BAROQUE. THE BAROQUE ERA, BETWEEN THE 1600S TO THE 1750S, WAS A TIME IN THE ART'S HISTORY THAT EMPHASIZED EVERYTHING. NARROWING IN ON THE MUSIC, COMPOSERS EXAGGERATED THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LOUD VERSUS SOFT VOLUMES, AND SOLOS OR ENSEMBLES WITHIN THEIR PIECES. THE MOODS QUICKLY SHIFT THROUGHOUT THEIR WORKS, YET MAINTAIN AN ENERGETIC VIBE. COMPOSED BY VIVALDI, PERFORMED BY ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, "FOUR SEASONS" IS A MASTERPIECE THAT CLEARLY SHOWCASES THIS POINT, SPECIFICALLY "SPRING" IN THE 2ND MOVEMENT.

BAROQUE MUSIC IS CONSTRUCTED BY ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS. IN THE FULL PIECE OF VIVALDI'S "FOUR SEASONS", VIOLINS, VIOLAS, CELLOS, BASSES, AND THE HARPSICHORD ARE LAYERED AND SCATTERED THROUGHOUT. THE STRINGED KEYBOARD, THE HARPSICHORD, IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THIS GENRE AND CAN BE HEARD IN VARIOUS WORKS OF THIS TIME....

[OUT: "FOUR SEASONS" BY VIVALDI]

[IN: "PET SOUNDS" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

AND WITHIN THE BAROQUE POP GENRE.

FEATURING SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS, LIKE THE HARPSICHORD, THE CLASSICAL SOUND LIKE VIVALDI'S ARE CARRIED OVER 240 YEARS LATER INTO THE BAROQUE POP GENRE. IN MAY OF 1966, THE BEACH BOYS RELEASED AN ALBUM THAT WOULD PUT BAROQUE POP INTO THE MAINSTREAM.

[OUT: "PET SOUNDS" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

[IN: "GOD ONLY KNOWS" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

THEIR FAMOUS LOVE BALLAD "GOD ONLY KNOWS" OFF THE ALBUM "PET SOUNDS", CONTAINED A MESH OF POP AND CLASSICAL MUSIC.

THE BEACH BOYS TOOK THE ENERGETIC VIBES FROM CLASSICAL MUSIC AND INTEGRATED IT INTO WHAT WAS POPULAR AT THE TIME. FOR A BAND WITH AS MUCH FAME AS THEM, IT WAS UNUSUAL TO HAVE AN EXPERIMENTAL ALBUM RELEASE AND HIT THE CHARTS.

[OUT: "GOD ONLY KNOWS" BY THE BEACH BOYS]

[IN: "SHE'S LEAVING HOME" BY THE BEATLES]

THIS STORY IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE BEATLES WITH THEIR ALBUM "SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND," WHICH FURTHERED THE BAROQUE POP WAVE AT THE TIME.

THIS SPECIFIC TRACK, "SHE'S LEAVING HOME," HIGHLIGHTS THE BEATLES EMOTIONAL AND MORE SADDENING MUSIC. THEY ACCOMPLISH THIS TONE WITH THIS SONG BY INCLUDING LIGHT BACKGROUND MUSIC THAT HAS EXAGGERATED AND EMPHASIZED STRUMS AND CHORDS THROUGHOUT THE

BRIDGE. THE BEATLES USUALLY MASHED SIMPLE LYRICS OVER COMPLEXED SOUNDS TO CREATE A PSYCHEDELIC TONE, BUT WITH “SHE’S LEAVING HOME,” THEY CHOSE TO SLOW DOWN THEIR PACE AND DESIGN A STRIKING PIECE OF MUSIC.

[OUT: “SHE’S LEAVING HOME” BY THE BEATLES]

[IN: “BATH” BY THE DIVINE COMEDY]

THOUGH THE BEACH BOYS AND OTHER ARTISTS AT THIS TIME WERE STILL PRODUCING ALBUMS, BAROQUE POP’S TREND FELL. BETWEEN THE 70S AND 90S, THIS GENRE WAS ALMOST CONSIDERED EXTINCT. THEN AROUND 1994, THE DIVINE COMEDY, REVIVED THIS GENRE.

OFF THEIR ALBUM TITLED “PROMENADE”, THE SONG “BATH” REALLY STOOD OUT TO ME FOR ITS ODD STYLE. LIKE MOST BAROQUE POP MUSIC, THE KEYBOARD AND STRING INSTRUMENTS CARRY A VIBRANT TONE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE SONG, AND BECOMES EXAGGERATED ONCE THE LYRICS ARE ADDED IN.

THE DIVINE COMEDY CONTRIBUTED TO THE REVIVAL OF BAROQUE POP AND IMPACTED THE MODERN DAY ARTISTS WITHIN THIS GENRE TO FORWARD THE SOUND.

[OUT: “BATH” BY THE DIVINE COMEDY]

PANIC AT THE DISCO, VAMPIRE WEEKEND, AND LANA DEL REY ARE ARTISTS THAT HAVE CONTINUED THE BAROQUE POP SOUND TO TODAY. FLORENCE AND

THE MACHINE IS ONE OF MY PERSONAL FAVORITE BANDS WITHIN THIS GENRE. BEFORE I EVEN DISCOVERED WHAT BAROQUE POP WAS, MY FAVORITE FLORENCE TRACK WAS OFF OF HER 2011 ALBUM TITLED “CEREMONIALS.”

[IN: “ONLY IF FOR A NIGHT” BY FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE]

“ONLY IF FOR A NIGHT” PERFECTLY ASSESSES THE CLASSICAL BAROQUE STYLE INTO THE BAROQUE POP GENRE TODAY.

FEATURING A STRONG CONTRAST BETWEEN SOLO AND ENSEMBLE VOCALS AND LOUD AND SOFT INSTRUMENTALS, THIS FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE TRACK EXEMPLIFIES THE POSITION AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THIS GENRE.

FOR WHJE RADIO, THIS HAS BEEN EMILY PATTYN. MORE STORIES LIKE THIS CAN BE FOUND AT WHJE.COM.

[OUT: “ONLY IF FOR A NIGHT” BY FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE]