**accompaniment** = a Baroque concept

→ difference in status between instrumental parts

* the basso continuo
  → keyboard instrument
    → harpsichord, organ
  → plucked string instrument
    → lute, guitar

* the basso fermo

* figures were usually written to indicate what additional notes to play to fill in the harmony.

* 2 continuo players
  → one plays with keyboard on sustaining notes, basso
  → supply the harmony (2 hands)

* texture
  → top line = melodic for voice or instrument
  → bottom = bass instrument & harmonic filling

* may be 2 upper lines
  → pair of singers (trio sonata)
  → pair of violins

* bass line generated harmony.