

The Renaissance



1400-1600

From Medieval to Madrigal...

- ❖ Medieval period (“Dark Ages”)-500--1400AD
- ❖ Music was mostly **sacred** (religious)--**monophonic** (means "one voice") just a melody line, no harmony. An example of monophonic music:
- ❖ **Gregorian chant** (**vocal church music**, named for Pope Gregory I and centered around **one tone**)
- ❖ Instruments were mostly portable (recorder, lute, hand drums, etc.)

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Humanism

- ❖ *The Renaissance* (which literally means "rebirth") was a time of great cultural awakening and a flourishing of the arts, literature, and sciences throughout Europe. This period was the precursor to the Age of Enlightenment.
- ❖ With the rise of **humanism** (a movement toward science, departing away from superstition as well as the rigidity of the **Church**), sacred music began for the first time to break free of the confines of the Church

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Renaissance Period--1400's-1500's

- ❖ Renaissance means "rebirth"
- ❖ ***secular*** music (non-religious) **gained popularity-**
 - ❖ an example of Renaissance secular music is the madrigal
- ❖ ***sacred*** music (religious)--expanded with harmony
 - ❖ an example of Renaissance sacred music is the motet

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Polyphony

- ❖ FORM: How music is put together (like a puzzle)
- ❖ ***polyphonic***--a musical form where more than one melody line weave together to create harmony
- ❖ A kind of harmony that happened during the Renaissance was called polyphonic: *poly* meaning, “many” and *phonic* meaning “voices”
- ❖ **Canons** and **Countermelodies** are examples of polyphonic harmony

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- ❖ _____—a musical form where more than one melody line weave together to create harmony
- ❖ A kind of harmony that happened during the Renaissance was called _____: *poly* meaning, “many” and *phonic* meaning “voices”
- ❖ _____ and _____ are examples of polyphonic harmony

Madrigals

- ❖ **Madrigals** were secular *polyphonic vocal music* often sung a capella
- ❖ Most often about love and such...
- ❖ Very often had “Fa-la-la’s...”

Madrigals

- ❖ **Madrigals** were _____ *polyphonic vocal music* often sung _____
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- ❖ Very often had “_____”

Motet

- ❖ Motets were mostly religious *polyphonic vocal music*, also sung mostly a capella
- ❖ Often text was in Latin (because it was from the mass parts) with a lot of melismatic words...
- ❖ **Melismatic: One word/syllable, many notes**

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Renaissance Instruments

- ❖ Many of the same instruments which had been around during the Medieval Period were used in Renaissance music.
- ❖ Improvements were made upon string instruments creating new ones.
- ❖ Woodwinds, which were the precursors of modern day instruments were incorporated, especially into dance music during the Renaissance.

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