

MUSIC IN THE RENAISSANCE

This is not a comprehensive list of everything you should know about music in the Renaissance, and is not a list of questions that you must memorize for an exam. Instead, it's a list of terms (concepts, events, people, places, etc.) you should be familiar with in order to analyze scores and sound recordings, to outline a chronology of basic historical and musical developments in the Renaissance, discuss the relationship between music and culture in that period and the relevance of that music and ideas in present-day culture.

Important Historical Events

- 1337-1453: Series of wars and conflicts mostly between the kingdoms of France and England over the successor to the throne of France known as The Hundred Years War.
- 1439: Gutenberg invents the movable type printing press
- 1492: Columbus arrives in the New World
- 1517: Martin Luther posts his 95 theses to the doors of the church of Wittenberg, Saxony, ushering the era of the reformation.
- 1538: Henry VIII breaks ties with the Roman Catholic Church and establishes the Church of England.
- 1545-1563: The Council of Trent: a series of meetings of high-ranking officials of the Roman Catholic Church for the purpose of responding to the changes ushered by the Protestant Reformers.

What impact did these events have in the development of music and culture in the Renaissance? Conversely, what impact did music have in these historical events and culture?

Music Theory, Aesthetics, and Philosophy in the Renaissance:

- Music and the Humanities:
 - More music is now attributed to specific composers
 - Rules of counterpoint (polyphony) are further theorized
 - Research into various types of tuning systems is further developed.
 - Ideas revived from Greek theories:
 - Music as a social accomplishment (education)
 - The power of the modes
 - Chromaticism
 - Gioseffo Zarlino (1517-1590). Theorist primarily known for working on tuning systems
 - Nicola Vicentino (1511-1576). Theorist primarily known for adapting notions of chromaticism to the music of his day

- Musical transmission and pedagogy
 - Printed music replaces manuscripts
 - Notation is more standardized than in the Middle Ages
 - New markets for music: amateur musicians (bourgeoisie)
- Important musical texts and treatises
 - Le institutione harmoniche (the harmonic foundations) (Zarlino, 1558)
 - L'antica musica ridotta alla moderna prattica (ancient music adapted to modern practice) (Vicentino, 1555)

Musical Genres and Styles:

- Sacred vocal genres
 - Mass movements
 - Cantus Firmus mass
 - Cantus Firmus-imitation mass
 - Paraphrase mass
 - Imitation (parody) mass
 - Chorales
 - Psalmody
 - Anthems
 - Motets
 - Villancicos
- Secular vocal genres
 - Villancicos
 - Frottola
 - Madrigals
 - Chansons
- Instrumental genres
- Elements of Style
 - Polyphony:
 - Canon
 - Points of imitation
 - Musique Mesurée
 - Word painting

Important People and Places

- People:
 - Dunstable
 - Du Fay
 - Binchois (aka Gilles de Bins)
 - Composers of imitative polyphony and canons:
 - Ockenghem, Isaac
 - Josquin Desprez
 - The Reformers:
 - Religion: Martin Luther, John Calvin, Henry VIII.
 - Music: Martin Luther, William Byrd, Thomas Tallis

- The Catholic music in the era of the Counter-Reformation
 - Composers in Europe: Palestrina, Victoria, Lassus
 - Composers in the New World: Pedro Bermudez, Gaspar Fernandez
- Madrigalists
 - Italy: Arcadelt, Rore, Marenzio, Gesualdo
 - England: Morley, Weelkes
- Other composers of secular songs:
 - England: John Dowland
 - France: Sermisy, Le Jeune
 - Spain: Encina, Narváez
- Places:
 - Flanders
 - France
 - England
 - Wittenberg (Saxony) (Holy Roman Empire)
 - Rome
 - The New World: Puebla de Los Angeles (present-day Puebla, Mexico), Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala (present-day Antigua, Guatemala)
 - Italian courts and cities: Mantua, Florence, Venice