

The Renaissance (c.1450 - 1600)

- Rebirth, emerged in Italy
- Humanism - less reliance on tradition and religion focus on human fulfillment, through centered on human issues and the individual.

Renaissance Writing

- Revival of ancient Greek and Roman Writing
- National Literature
- Rise of the printing press
- **Note Missing**

Renaissance Sacred Music

- Music important in church service Gregorian chants, polyphonic setting of the mass, motets
- A capella singing
- A fuller chords
- Polyphonic music: cantus Firmus a fixed melody used as basis for ornamentation of in the other voice.

Motet

- A sacred genre with Latin text

Josquin des prez (c. 1450 - 1521) & the Motet

- Important comporer
- **Note missing**

Josquin, Ave maria... Virgo Serena (c. 1480)

- Motet, Latin text
- Acapella
- Changes in textures: alternates imitative and homophonic
- Changes in meter: alternates Duple and Triple
- Conjunct melody, flowing rhythm

Polyphonic Mass - sets the ordinary of the mass polyphonically

Kyria, Gloria, credo, Sanctus, agnusdei

Cycle setting - creating musical unity between each section.

Cantus firmus - fixed melody; is basis of a polyphonic setting

2 vocal Styles:

1. Recitative - dialogue between characters in real time

Typical Baroque Operatic Convention: alternation of recitative & aria

Castrato - castrated male singer; lead heroic character

Da Capo Aria - ABA structure, upon repetition of A, the singer is expected to embellish

Opera in England

- Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)
- Most important English composer in the 17th century; reputation as the greatest English composer for centuries
 - o Prolific - he wrote many vocal works both religious and secular
 - o Contributed to English music theater
 - o Wrote only 1 opera: Dido & Aeneas(1689)
 - Based upon mythological story taken from Virgil's Aeneid.

Act III Lament (Found in Book)

- Ground bass - a specific type of ostinato that occurs in the bass line

Baroque Cantata & Oratorio

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

- Weimar(1708 - 1717) - organist for the Duke of Weimar
- Conthen (1717 -1723) - music director for the Prince of Cothen
- Leipzig (1723-1750) - cantor & music director of St. Thomas's church