

The Renaissance

It Happened in Music, Too

Background

- ~ The “100 Years War”
 - ~ Long struggle between England and France over French crown
 - ~ Began with Edward III
 - ~ Ended with Henry V conquering France

Paraphrase

- ~ Composers began depending less on plainchant as the basis of a composition.
- ~ *Paraphrase* became common:
 - ~ Adding notes to a chant
 - ~ Setting the chant into a regular meter

Guillaume Dufay

Hymn: *Ave maris stella*

- ~ Plainchant *Ave maris stella*
- ~ Heard at tempo
- ~ Heard at a slower tempo



Guillaume Dufay

Hymn: *Ave maris stella*

- ~ Dufay's paraphrase of the plainchant

Guillaume Dufay

Hymn: *Ave maris stella*

- ~ Dufay's paraphrase of the plainchant with piano tones on the original chant notes.



Stanza 1 (Chant)

*Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma,
Atque semper Virgo,
Felix coeli porta.*

*Hail, star of the ocean,
Kind Mother of God,
And also still a virgin,
Our blessed port to heaven.*

Stanza 2 (Paraphrase)

*Sumens illud Ave
gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Hevae nomen.*

*May that blessed "Ave"
From Angel Gabriel's mouth
Grant us peace,
Reversing the name "Eva."*

Imitative Polyphony

- ~ The overriding texture of the Renaissance.
- ~ By mid-Renaissance it comes into full bloom in those composers who follow Dufay.

Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

Pange lingua Mass

- ~ Based on Gregorian chant
Pange lingua
- ~ Overriding characteristic is first four notes
- ~ Hear them slowed down a bit



Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

Pange lingua Mass

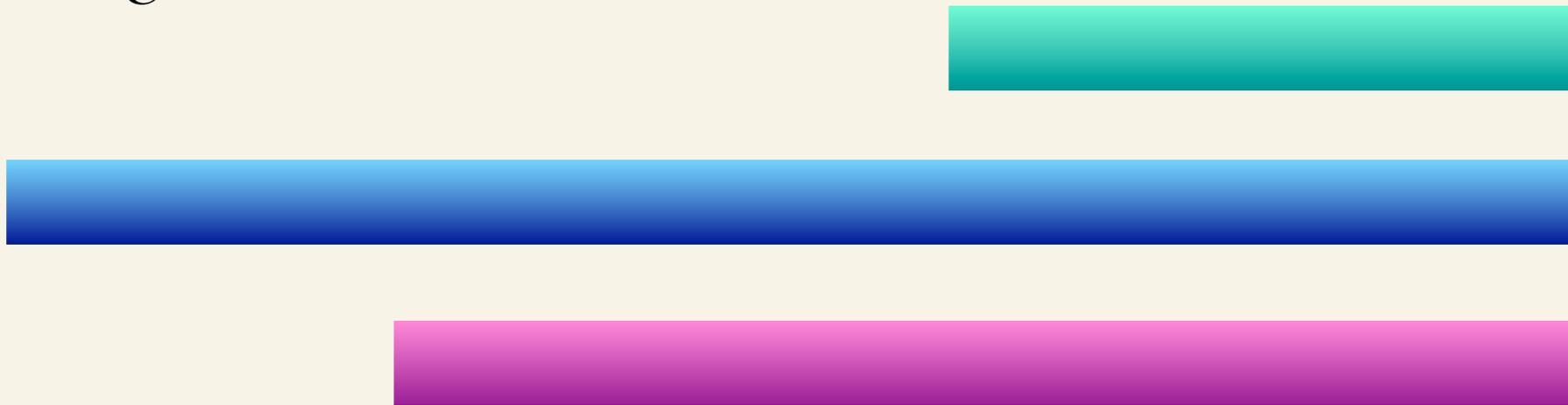
- ~ Four notes of the words *Kyrie* are sung by medium voices, then copied a fifth lower by the low voices.



Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

Pange lingua Mass

- ~ Now add a third (high) voice, also on those same four notes.
- ~ The third voice is a fifth higher than the original voice.



Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

Pange lingua Mass

- ~ It can be very effective to layer the entries close upon each other.
- ~ Second phrase: each voice enters, one after another, very quickly.



Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

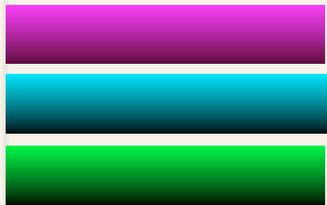
Pange lingua Mass

Complete Performance:

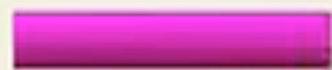
Kyrie, eleison

Christe, eleison

Kyrie, eleison



In the Kyrie, color bars indicate points of imitation



On E



On A



On C

The Mass

- ~ One of the most important genres of the Renaissance.
- ~ Setting of the *ordinary* of the Mass
 - ~ Those elements of the Mass which do not change throughout the church calendar.
 - ~ Etymology: think of *ordinal*, or *ordered*.
 - ~ The *proper* consists of those parts which change during the year.

The Mass

- ~ Mass settings are as early as Guillaume de Machaut in the 14th century.
- ~ They are as recent as Igor Stravinsky (1948)

The Mass

- ~ **Kyrie**

- ~ 3 lines

- ~ **Gloria**

- ~ Longer, multiple sections

- ~ **Credo**

- ~ Longer, multiple sections

- ~ Central statement of Christian belief

- ~ **Sanctus**

- ~ Short

- ~ **Agnus Dei**

- ~ Short

Josquin des Pres (Desprez)

Pange lingua Mass: from the Gloria

- ~ 4-voice setting in sophisticated imitative counterpoint.
- ~ Several critical spots are homophonic, rather than polyphonic.
- ~ In the animated chart, homophonic passages are highlighted in red while polyphonic passages are highlighted in blue.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus,
Jesu Christe,

cum sancto spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

You who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

You who take away the sins of the world,
hear our prayer.

You who sit at the father's right hand,
have mercy upon us.

For you alone are holy,
you alone are the lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,

With the holy spirit,
in the glory of god the father.
Amen.

Palestrina and the Counter-Reformation

- ~ Mid-16th century housecleaning of the Church.
- ~ Overly zealous, went too far.
- ~ Famous old story that Palestrina “saved” polyphony by writing a Mass which used polyphony in such an inoffensive manner that the reformers relented and did not require all imitative polyphony to be banned from liturgical music.
- ~ It isn't true...

Palestrina

- ~ Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
- ~ c. 1525 - 1594
- ~ Singer in Rome including the Papal Chapel
- ~ Wrote a great deal of secular music in his youth
- ~ Later wrote all liturgical music
- ~ His style and sound are in many ways the “voice” of the Roman Catholic church to this day.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Pope Marcellus Mass: from the Gloria

- ~ 6-voice setting, mostly homophonic.
- ~ Several critical spots are polyphonic, rather than homophonic.
- ~ In the animated chart, homophonic passages are highlighted in red while polyphonic passages are highlighted in blue.

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Miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus,
Jesu Christe,

cum sancto spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

You who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

You who take away the sins of the world,
hear our prayer.

You who sit at the father's right hand,
have mercy upon us.

For you alone are holy,
you alone are the lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,

With the holy spirit,
in the glory of god the father.
Amen.

The Madrigal

- ~ A secular work for voices, set to a single-stanza poem.
- ~ A form of light entertainment, suitable for amateur performance.
- ~ Italian and English forms
 - ~ *The Italian ones are in Italian*
 - ~ *The English ones are in English*

The Madrigal

- ~ Typically madrigals employ word painting, in which the music copies the actions portrayed in the text.
- ~ For example, the music might be written to ascend on a line such as “she ascended.”
- ~ Word painting is often derided as cheap, but in the right hands it can be quite effective.

Thomas Weelkes

As Vesta was from Latmos Hill Descending

- ~ Madrigal with a great deal of word painting.
- ~ The animated chart attempts to get into the festive madrigal spirit...

As Vesta was from Latmos

Elizabethan Instrumental Music

- ~ Kemp's Jig (Anonymous)
- ~ Will Kemp was Shakespeare's first "clown"
-- the actor who played roles like Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- ~ After leaving the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Kemp "went on tour."

