

# The Major Eras of History -- in Music ii -- the early periods.

**The Renaissance:** - The 'REBIRTH' after the 'Dark Ages'.

i.e. rebirth of Classical Ideals -- and an explosion in Human Civilization/Evolution -- a rededication to Human (as opposed to spiritual) values -- secular art (as opposed to sacred).

**The Baroque Period:**

1500 + A.D.

1525-1594

1567-1643 A.D.

1600 - 1750 A.D.

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**Josquin Dez Prez'** (1440-1521) Masses are Published. He is hailed as 'father of musicians' (Leonardo da Vinci). Thirds and Sixths become 'consonant'. New Tuning systems introduced. Begins in Italy - the 'Flemish school'. Music is Printed for the first time. 'International Style'. Text painting/setting. Chromaticism (**Carlo Gesualdo** - 1561-1613). Music is written down much more and Instrumental music grows greatly in importance. Instruments (all 'families' greatly developed) Harpsichord. Considerations on tuning and improvisation, form (sonata). Dance music (secular music).

**Giovani Palestrina** Polyphonic Church Music. Further develops polyphony, counterpoint, harmonic rhythm, form, melody, texture. First style to be preserved and imitated.

**Claudio Monteverdi** moves music towards accompanied soloistic writing, writes first 'opera' (*Orfeo*), he freely uses chromaticism and 'dissonance' and received extensive criticism. Moved music towards seventeenth century writing by use of 'declamatory' music motives, themes.

**Jean-Philippe Rameau** helps develop modern theory of tonality ('fundamental harmony').  
**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750) writes *The Well-Tempered Clavier* demonstrating the modern tuning system. Master of polyphonic writing (fugue, invention, sinfonia).  
**George Friedrich Handel** (1685-1759) writes *Messiah* in 1742 (oratorio, text painting).  
**Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741) writes *Four Seasons* in 1725 (program music, concertos). Instrumental music is greatly developed.

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