



METADATA

Title: Music in Italy from medieval times to the 21st century, vol. A: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque

Other Titles: -

Language: Greek

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ISBN: 978-618-5667-63-4

Subject: HUMANITIES AND ARTS

Keywords: History of music / Baroque music / Polyphony / Musical genres

Bibliographic Reference: Koutsobina, V. (2022). Music in Italy from medieval times to the 21st century, vol. A: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque [Undergraduate textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions. <http://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-65>

Abstract

The present textbook is the first part of the two-volume textbook with general title Music in Italy from medieval times to the 21st century and subtitled Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, while the second volume with the subtitle From the Classical period to the 21st century covers music creation from the opening decades of the 18th century to the present day. The volume offers a historical, social, and cultural perspective of the musical developments in the Italian peninsula, from the first Christian centuries to the Baroque period. The historical narrative traces the paths of early Christian practices in order to approach and interpret the enormous body of religious melodies that subsequently formed the basis of western European music. The textbook explores the full gamut of musical activity, from ecclesiastic and devotional practices to courtly musical entertainment. Italian music during

the Renaissance is viewed through the double prism of the influence of the Franco-Flemish School of composers, who shaped the polyphonic language and the main musical genres of the 15th and 16th centuries, and of the impact of Humanism on art and literature. The aesthetic, philosophical, and artistic explorations that took place in important Italian centers (Florence, Rome, Venice, Ferrara, etc.) during the 16th century affected decisively the musical developments, culminating to the new genre of opera that quickly brought Italy to the epicenter of western musical culture. The third part of the volume (the baroque period) explores the genre of opera and its sacred counterpart, the oratorio, along with new instrumental genres (the concerto, the trio sonata, etc.), which grew partly as a result of the flourishing Italian instrument-making workshops and the rigorous music printing activity.

