

THE RENAISSANCE (from the 15th century until 16th century)

1. MEANING OF THE RENAISSANCE:

Renaissance means “rebirth”. People in this era admired the ancient Greek and Roman culture. They were inspired by the ancient Greek and Roman arts (architecture, sculpture, etc) and its idea of beauty and balance.

2. IMPORTANT EVENTS AND IDEAS IN THE RENAISSANCE:

- a) There were many voyages of discovery and scientific advances.
 - The discovery of America en 1492.
 - The invention of printing in 1445 by Gutenberg. This invention widened the circulation of music and books.
- b) According to the Renaissance ideal of the “Universal man” every educated person was expected to know a little bit about everything. They were curious and were interested in perhaps every single subject imaginable.

3. WHAT ABOUT MUSIC:

- a) The music in the Renaissance became more important than in the previous era. In fact every educated person was expected to be trained in music(playing and instrument and reading notation)
- b) The most common music texture was polyphony, and it used to combine counterpoint and homophonic texture. Every song had at least four different voice parts. Also, the imitation among voices was common.

4. TYPES OF MUSIC:

During the Renaissance the music continued to be developed in the classic environments. The CHURCH and The COURT. However, thanks to the printing, secular music became increasingly popular.

CHURCH MUSIC

- This music was made to accompany the holy words.
- It was performed in the Church.
- It was choral polyphony
- The main forms were the Mass and the Motet.
- It used to combine syllabic style with melismatic style.
- It was normally sung a cappella.

SECULAR MUSIC

- It was made just for fun. It was independent of Churches.
- It used to be performed in rich people’s homes or in palaces.
- Even country had its own style. For example in Spain the most popular type of song was “villancico”
- It was played with instruments and voices.
- It used to have syllabic style.
- The most important instruments to accompany the voices were the LUTE and the VIOL.