

Western Classical Music

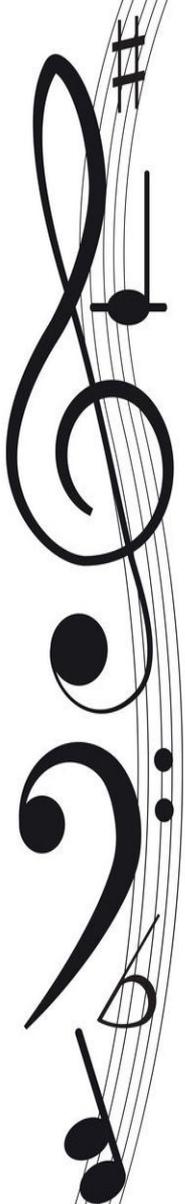
A Pocket History

[<http://fabian.ca/PocketHistory>]

LIFE Course

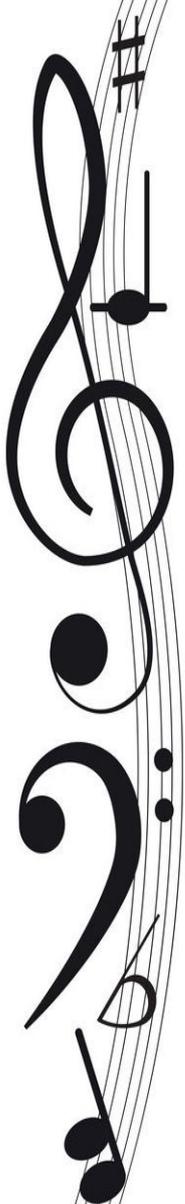
Bob Fabian [bob@fabian.ca]

Winter 2023



Footnotes

- Called *Western* Classical Music. Many other societies have their own classical music. But our time (and my knowledge) are limited
- Optional final in-person downtown session, e.g. the party room in our condo (Yonge & Wellesley). Other suggestions welcomed.

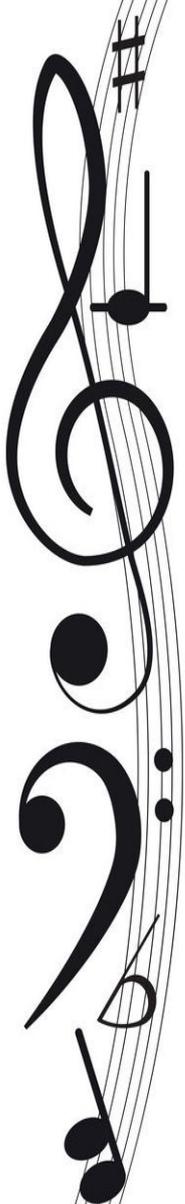


Session Plan

- Me and background objectives
- (Modest) technology concerns
- Your initial thoughts

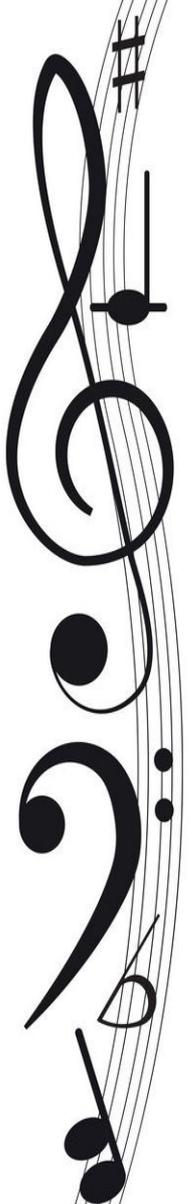
[break]

- Examples before J. S. Bach (1685-1750)



Background

- I was a reasonable Horn player. Never undertook academic study of music
 - But music has always been important to me, and I have presented a dozen LIFE music courses
- My background objectives for course
 - Appreciation of each period's music
 - Explore some lesser known works
 - Evolving musical paradigms
 - Be engaging, entertaining & educational



7 Periods of Classical Music

- Medieval (c. 1150-c. 1400)
- Renaissance (c. 1400-c. 1600)
- Baroque (c. 1600-c. 1750)
- Classical (c. 1750-c. 1830)
- Early Romantic (c.1830-1860)
- Late Romantic (c.1860-c.1920)
- 20th and 21st century (c. 1920-present)

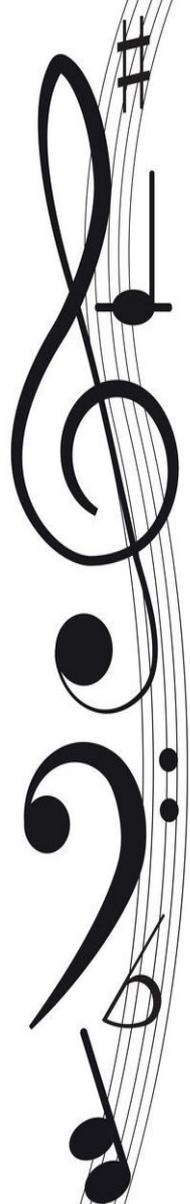
See: <https://www.greatertorontomusic.ca/post/7-eras-of-classical-music>

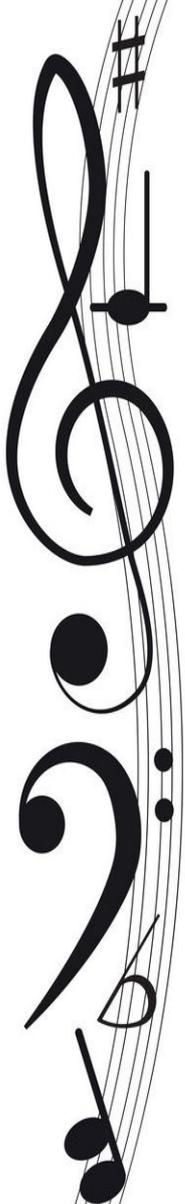
Useful Additions

- Headphones or satellite speakers can help (reasonable examples < \$50)



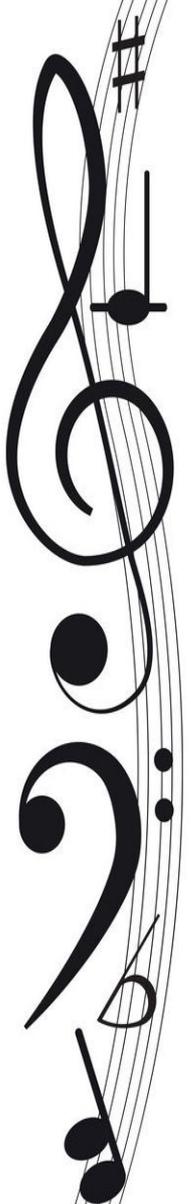
Illustrative Amazon examples



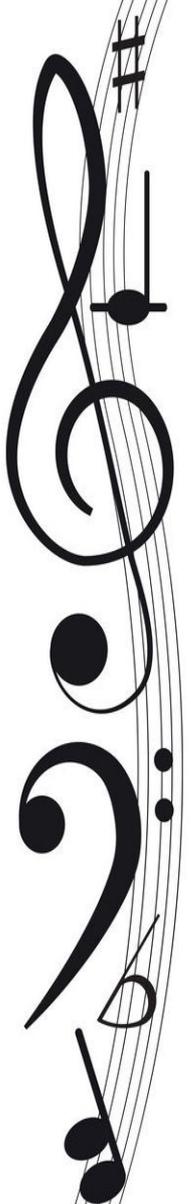


Your Thoughts

- Which periods to include/exclude
 - Medieval (c. 1150-c. 1400); Renaissance (c. 1400-c. 1600); Baroque (c. 1600-c. 1750); Classical (c. 1750-c. 1830); Early Romantic (c.1830-1860); Late Romantic (c.1860-c.1920); 20th and 21st century (c. 1920-present)
- Relative emphasis on major or lesser known composers, men/women
- Would you like to present a short performance by a personal favourite composer?

A vertical musical staff on the left side of the page. It features a treble clef at the top, a sharp sign (#) on the first line, a quarter note on the second line, a bass clef on the third line, a quarter note on the second line, and a pair of eighth notes on the first line. The staff lines are curved and extend downwards.

10 minute break ...



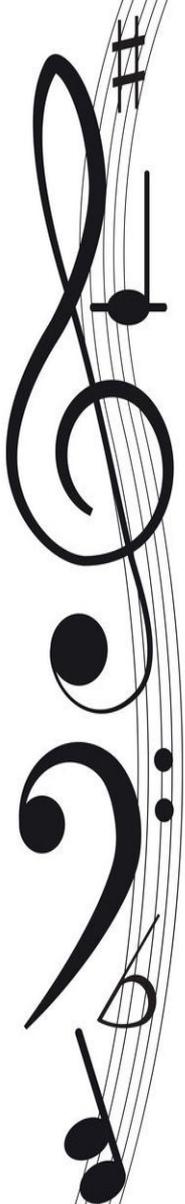
Market for Recorded Music

- Limited market for another performance of Beethoven's 5th
- Need to bring something “new” to the marketplace
- On-line music servers provide access to wide range of music



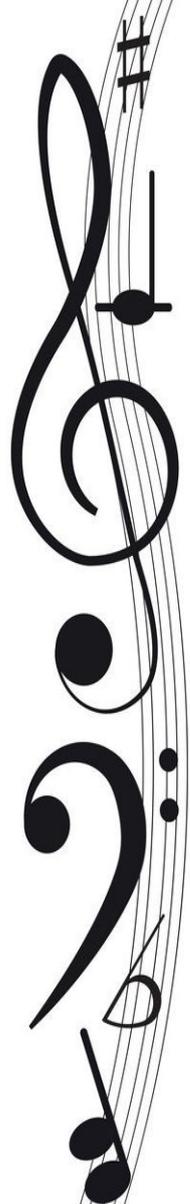
Success

- Project to the end of class. How would you recognize a successful course?
 - Discovered new, attractive periods
 - Discovered new, attractive composers
 - Appreciation of forces driving music
 - Opportunity to shape what's considered
 - Engaging social interaction
- Your view ...



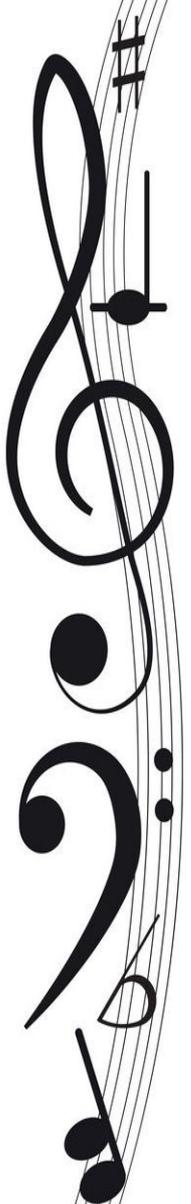
Musical Paradigms

- An (implicit) social agreement about what's important to consider
- Multiple constraints
 - Human sensory constraints
 - Musical instrument constraints
 - Social role of music
- Interesting starting point: native musical paradigms



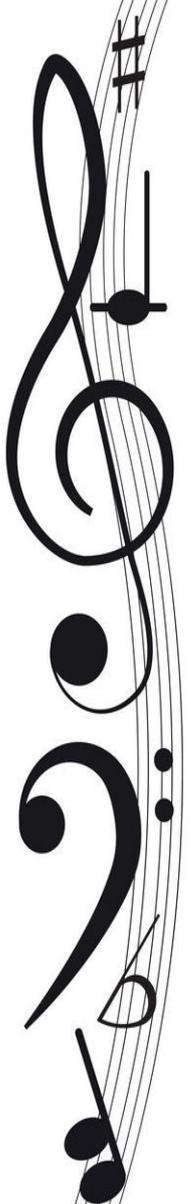
Musical Paradigms

- Each time and place has paradigms for what is musically acceptable.
- Composers are guided by the paradigms they learn while studying composition
- Musical paradigms evolve, but not too fast, else sponsors loose interest

A vertical musical staff on the left side of the slide. It features a treble clef at the top, a sharp sign (#) on the first line, and a bass clef further down. There are several musical notes and stems scattered along the staff lines.

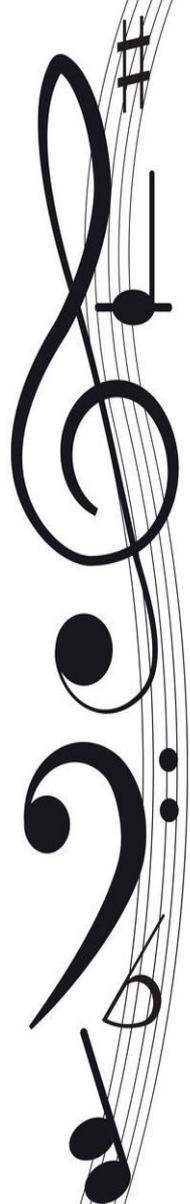
Sponsors: Paradigm Drivers

- The church
- The court
- The audience
- The market
- T&P committees



Today's 3 Composers

- Hildegard of Bingen (c. 1098 – 17 September 1179)
- William Byrd (c. 1540 – 4 July 1623)
- Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa (c. 30 March 1566 – 8 September 1613)



Hildegard of Bingen

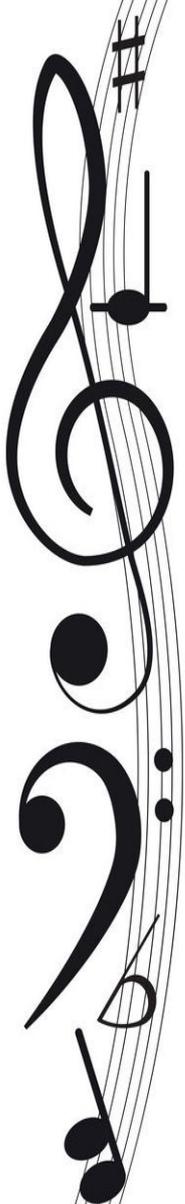
- Hildegard of Bingen (c. 1098 – 17 September 1179) was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony, as well as the most recorded in modern history. She has been considered by scholars to be the founder of scientific natural history in Germany.

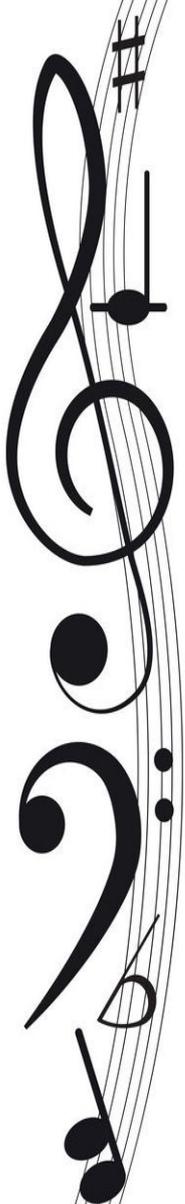
- Wikipedia

Hildegard von Bingen: Ave Generosa



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEjiX-9SQ_w





William Byrd

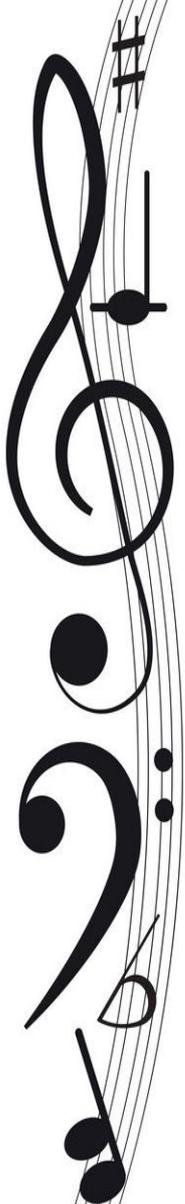
- William Byrd (c. 1540 – 4 July 1623) was an English composer of late Renaissance music. Considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native England and those on the continent. He wrote in many of the forms, including various types of sacred and secular polyphony, keyboard and consort music.

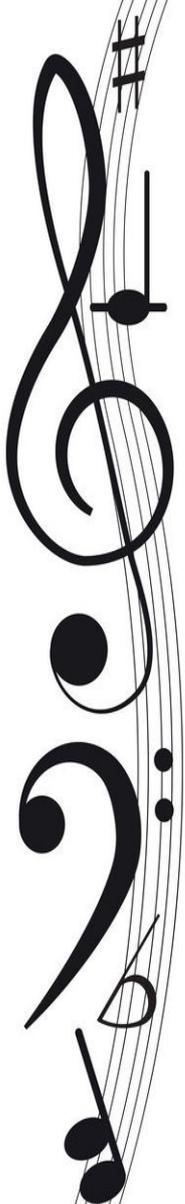
-Wikipedia

'Ave Verum' by William Byrd



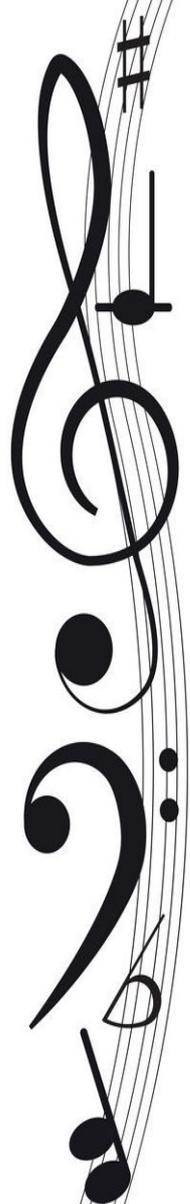
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3vuU7XAaUM>





Carlo Gesualdo

- Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa (c. 30 March 1566 – 8 September 1613) was Prince of Venosa and Count of Conza. As a composer he is known for writing madrigals and pieces of sacred music that use a chromatic language not heard again until the late 19th century. He is also known for killing his first wife and her aristocratic lover upon finding them in flagrante delicto.



The Gesualdo Six | Owain Park
Tenebrae Factae Sunt - Carlo Gesualdo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HIFKBhOV40>