

# Renaissance Period



c. 1450-1600

# Fall of Constantinople, 1453

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- ❧ Constantinople was held siege and later taken by the Ottoman Turks
- ❧ Marked the end of the Byzantine empire
  - ❧ [Google Image Result for http://www.zeleka.com/turkey/img/bizans.jpg](http://www.zeleka.com/turkey/img/bizans.jpg)  
(map and info)
- ❧ Seen by many historians today as the ending of the medieval period because:
  - ❧ Many scholars left the middle east where much of the cultural and intellectual heritage of ancient Greece and Rome had been preserved. Many went to Italy taking their knowledge with them which helped fuel the Renaissance
  - ❧ Use of gunpowder?
  - ❧ Weakened European religious power
    - ❧ Crusades came to an end
- ❧ Caused disruptions in trade routes
  - ❧ Columbus' expedition was funded on the premise that an alternate route to the orient could be found by sailing west. This supposed new route would mean less expensive imports because merchants would not have to work with Ottoman middlemen

# CULTURAL IDEAS



- ❧ Began in Florence, Italy in the late 1300's
  - ❧ Overlaps with the late medieval period
- ❧ Later spread throughout Europe
- ❧ Fueled by a revival of knowledge based on Classical (ancient) Greek Roman sources
- ❧ Believed that human capacity was unlimited therefore people should:
  - ❧ Learn as much as possible about as many subjects as possible
  - ❧ Push themselves physically
  - ❧ Study and practice (participate in) the arts such as:
    - ❧ Poetry
    - ❧ Music
    - ❧ Painting
    - ❧ Dance (social)
  - ❧ Speak several languages
  - ❧ Study science
  - ❧ Study **theology**

Which led to

- ❧ Educational reform
- ❧ Middle class on the rise
  - ❧ More people played music at home (amateurs)
- ❧ More women became musicians

# Music in general:



- ❧ There are many references to music and musicians in Renaissance painting and poetry (Machlis p. 85)
- ❧ **Pervasiveness** of music in Renaissance life led to a growth in the music industry
- ❧ Renaissance musicians worked for:
  - ❧ The Church
  - ❧ Local and state governments
  - ❧ **Royal** and **aristocratic** courts (Machlis p. 85)
  - ❧ schools
- ❧ Employment possibilities included:
  - ❧ Choirmaster
  - ❧ Singer
  - ❧ Organist
  - ❧ Instrumentalist
  - ❧ Copyist
  - ❧ Composer
  - ❧ Teacher
  - ❧ Instrument builder
  - ❧ Music printer
  - ❧ Publisher (Machlis p. 85)

# More cause and effect:



- ↻ Rise of the merchant class → a larger group of patrons → more musicians →
- ↻ Invention of movable type for music → greater availability and affordability of music books → more large publishing houses → greater musical literacy

# Major Composers

- ❧ Guillaume Dufay c. 1400-1474
  - ❧ Italian, Burgundian?
- ❧ Johannes Ockeghem c. 1410-1497
  - ❧ Flemish (historically included parts of Belgium, France and the Netherlands)
  - ❧ [Google Image Result for http://www.liturgica.com/images/wcOckeghem\\_1g.jpg](http://www.liturgica.com/images/wcOckeghem_1g.jpg) (info)
- ❧ Josquin Desprez c. 1440-1521
  - ❧ Franco-Flemish
  - ❧ Was a student of Ockeghem
- ❧ Orlando (Roland) de Lassus 1532-1594
  - ❧ Flemish (culmination of the Flemish tradition)
- ❧ Tielman Susato c. 1515-1567
  - ❧ Flemish (Antwerp)
- ❧ Palestrina (Giovanni Pierluigi) c. 1525-94
  - ❧ Italian
- ❧ Thomas Tomkins 1572-1656
  - ❧ English
- ❧ Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643
  - ❧ Italian
  - ❧ Spanned the transition from Renaissance to Baroque

# Martin Luther and the Reformation



## 95 Theses

- ☞ Nailed to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517
- ☞ Was concerned mainly with reforming the sale of indulgences
  - ☞ Indulgences were a way to pay for sins
  - ☞ Luther felt that penance and good deeds were a better path to salvation
- ☞ Did not intend to leave or destroy the Catholic Church, only to reform it
- ☞ Guttenberg printed the Bible in German which allowed more people to be able to read it for themselves

## Counter Reformation

- ☞ Was the Church's response to the Reformation
- ☞ Some ideas were:
  - ☞ More help to the poor
  - ☞ Only organ for accompaniment in church
  - ☞ No secular songs are part of the mass
  - ☞ Wanted the music to be more simple, less polyphonic