



Colegio Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

Erasmus + Project : 2014-1-ES01-KA101-002752

ACTIVITY TITLE: RENAISSANCE MUSIC

SUBJECT: MUSIC

AIM OF THE ACTIVITY: Learn vocabulary, work with associations and comparisons.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 60 minutes session.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Copies of the attached documents; computer; proyector and Internet.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS: text "Renaissance Music", Venn Diagram and the fishbone diagram.

SUGGESTED LEVEL: 3rd E.S.O.

PROCEDURE

1.- TEXT READING (10 minutes)

Read the text about the Renaissance Music

2.-COOPERATIVE READING USING A FISHBONE DIAGRAM (25 minutes)

In groups of 4, A reads paragraph 1, B reads the part "Religious vocal music", C reads "Secular vocal music", D reads "Instrumental music". Each write a title for the part in the top of the fishbone diagram and the main ideas of the text on a line at the bottom of the diagram. Students take it turns to read their notes to their partners; everyone writes all the paragraph titles and features on their fishbone.

3.-COMPARISON TASK (25 minutes)

Listen to "Ave María" Tomás Luis de Victoria (https://youtu.be/YXyqPDUO_fm) and "Ave Maria" (Gregorian Chant) (<https://youtu.be/d6ILOoa47Vo>): what's the same and what's different? With a partner, the students have to use the Venn diagram to write down all the similarities and differences they can hear.

RENAISSANCE MUSIC

The Renaissance was a time of rebirth in learning, science and the arts throughout Europe. Renaissance is the polyphony and counterpoint era. Voices achieve an elaborate independence throughout the 14th century. The importance of the interval of the third as a consonance is one of the most pronounced characteristics of Renaissance European music as well. The lyrics are very important and the musicians try to reflect the meaning of the text as best as they could.

1. Religious vocal music

Religious music in the Renaissance period achieved an international character. The main composers travelled and worked throughout Europe.

Principal liturgical forms in the Renaissance period were motets and masses. **Motet** is a religious piece of music made up of several parts with lyrics in Latin. The name comes from the old French *mot* (word). Normally the texture is polyphonic.

Mass is a choral composition about the main prayers of the Eucharistic liturgy (Kyrie Eleison, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei).

The most important composers of religious vocal genres are Josquin des Prez, Orlando di Lasso, Giovanni Pierluigi de Palestrina, and Cristobal de Morales, Francisco Guerrero and Tomás Luis de Victoria from Spain.

2. Secular vocal music

Secular vocal music style is associated with the different national styles. Principal secular vocal genres included the madrigal and the chanson.

In a **madrigal** the number of voices varies from two to eight. It's written in Italian and normally the lyrics are about love. Marenzio and Gesualdo were important composers of madrigals. A **chanson** is a piece of music with lyrics in French. In general, chansons are easier than madrigals.

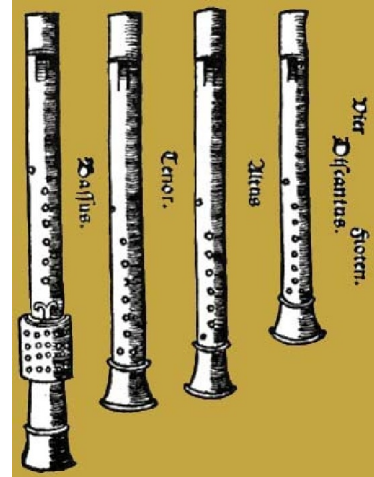
The most important characteristic of a madrigal or a chanson is the relationship between text and music: the music is a reflection of the text.



The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the text "Dal-le-ce-le-sti sfe-re". The score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) and consists of two systems of staves. Each system has four staves, one for each voice part. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, and the second system shows a continuation of the text. The music is polyphonic, with each voice part having its own melodic line.

3. Instrumental music

Purely instrumental music included consort music for recorder or viol and other instruments. A **consort** is an ensemble of different instruments that could be broken consort (if there are instruments from different families), or whole consorts (if all the instruments were from the same family). Common genres were toccata, prelude, ricercar, canzona and, for sure, dances (basse danse, pavane, galliard, saltarello allemande, courante, etc). Variation was one of the most important techniques of the composers and players. In Spain, we called them *diferencias*.



The first ensembles of instruments appeared in the Renaissance period. Normally, they were grouped by family or intensity.

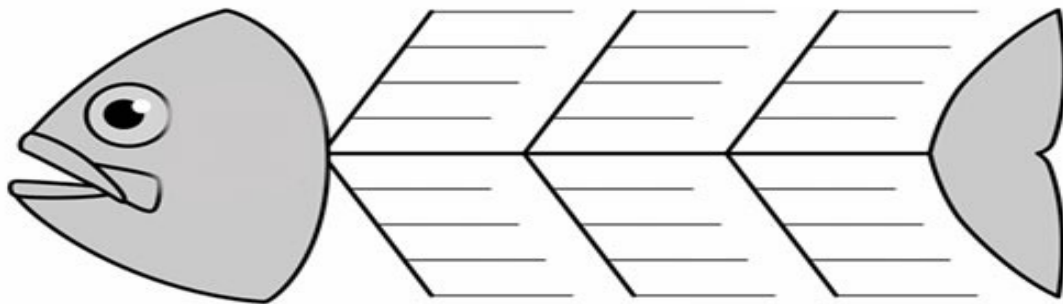
The main brass instruments in the Renaissance were the cornet, the trumpet and the sackbut. In the woodwind family we could find recorders and traverse flutes.

The string family was used in many circumstances, both sacred and secular. A few members of this family include viol, lyre, lute and harpsichord.

Some Renaissance percussion instruments include the triangle, the tambourine, the bells and various kinds of drums.

In Spain we had a really interesting string instrument: the vihuela. The most important players were Narváez or Luis de Milán.

FISHBONE DIAGRAM



COMPARISON TASK

Listen to a piece of Renaissance Music and other of Gregorian Chant: what's the same and what's different?

With a partner, use the Venn diagram to write down all the similarities and differences you can hear.

