

# Renaissance Music: From Polyphony to Opera

Professor Giuseppe Gerbino

Tuesdays, 5.30-7.30 p.m. | Common Room, Heyman Center, East Campus

## *Course description*

With the rise of humanism and the recovery of ancient texts, music became the object of a new reflection on the nature of human communication. The Renaissance in large part redefined the relationship between music and language as an ideal synthesis of reason and emotion. This course explores the musical legacy of the Italian Renaissance by retracing the history of the encounter of music and humanism through the works of Josquin Desprez, Cipriano de Rore, Palestrina, Luca Marenzio, and Claudio Monteverdi. We will discuss the mathematical foundations and the ethical implications of Renaissance music theory, the relationship between music and the art of persuasion, the mysterious eloquence of polyphony, and the contentious invention of opera.

## *Syllabus*

January 26	Humanism and the search for perfect music
February 9	Josquin and the principle of imitation
February 23	The art of expressive counterpoint
March 8	Musical avant-gardes and the critique of polyphony
March 29	Singing like Orpheus: the idea opera
April 12	Make-up class should it be required.