

Renaissance



Music

Read this information sheet carefully.

Design a brochure containing essential information about music in the Renaissance period. Don't forget to include instruments, type of music, composers and basic terms used about Renaissance music.

Make your brochure as colourful as you can.

FACT BOX

Dates : 1450 - 1600

The word 'Renaissance' means 'rebirth' or 'revival'

The Renaissance period was a time of relative political and economic stability.

It saw a revival of interest in the arts - painting, sculpture, architecture and music.

The wealthy people of the Renaissance supported the arts by employing composers, writers, artists and poets to provide them with beautiful surroundings and entertainment.

Choirs in church were made up of men and boys. Women weren't allowed to take part.



Musical terms used in the Renaissance

Drone	2 notes played continuously through a piece of music. Sounds like a bagpipe. The 2 notes are a 5th apart, like C&G or A&E
Ostinato	(means obstinate or persistent). A rhythm or melody (tune) that is repeated.
Madrigal	A Renaissance 'pop' song. Was sung unaccompanied.
Pavane	A European court dance, used for the entry of important guests. It was slow moving and dignified.
Volta	A quick lively dance
A capella	A song for choir which is sung unaccompanied (no instruments)
Sacred music	Music written for the church (masses, motets)
Secular music	Music not written for the church (madrigals, instrumental music)

Renaissance instruments

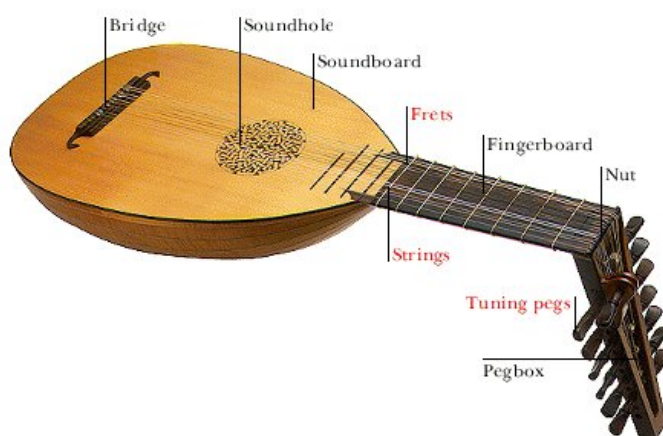
SACKBUTT

An early trombone dating from 1490. A member of the brass family, the sackbutt is an aerophone, an instrument that produces its sound by the variation of a column of air. The different pitched notes are produced by adjusting the length of the brass tube by using the slide. The Sackbut is now called the Trombone.



LUTE

The lute is a plucked string instrument which originated from the Arabian 'ud'. It was probably one of the most important instruments of the Renaissance period. Anybody who had any money learned to play the lute - it was very fashionable to play it. The lute was used for solo playing and accompanying songs. The lute is a chordophone, an instrument whose sound is made by the vibration of the strings. Different pitches of note are made by putting your left hand fingers on the fretboard. The strings were usually made out of gut.



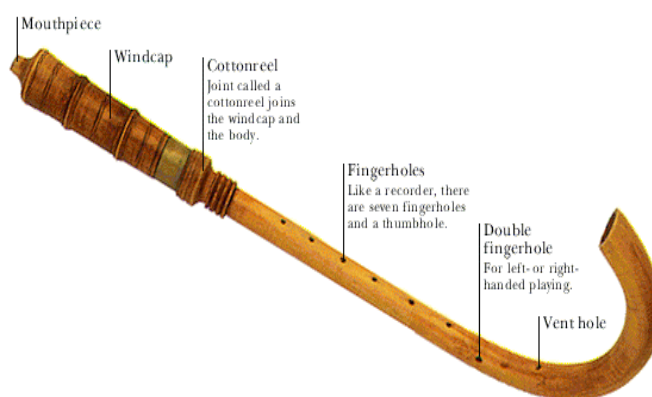
VIOL

The viol is a six stringed instrument with frets like a guitar, but it is played with a bow. It was invented in Southern Spain. A chordophone, the viol is made of wood with gut strings and a wooden bow strung with horse hair. There were several sizes of viol usually played in an ensemble. The bass viol was also used as a solo instrument.



CRUMHORN

The crumhorn is a woodwind instrument using a double reed mouthpiece. It was very popular in the Renaissance period, most frequently played in court ensembles and large town bands. Different sizes of crumhorn were used for different octaves of pitch. A professional musician would have to own a full set. The crumhorn is an aerophone. Town watchmen in Germany were ordered to play the crumhorn so they could warn of danger approaching.



Renaissance composers

Claudio Monteverdi (b 1567, d 1643)

Entered the Duke of Mantua's service at the age of 16 as a viol player and madrigal singer. He became a noted composer of both sacred (church) music and secular (non-church) music. He wrote Masses, madrigals, opera and ballets. His operas had 'real' characters in them rather than mythological ones.



Monteverdi

Byrd

Thomas Morley (b 1557, d 1602)

Was the organist for St. Paul's Cathedral at the age of 32. In 1598 was granted permission by Queen Elizabeth I to print song books. He printed his own and others work. He specialised in writing Balletts, a type of madrigal, but he also wrote sacred (church) music.

William Byrd (b 1543 d 1623)

At the age of 20 he was the organist at Lincoln Cathedral. In 1572 he became organist for the Chapel Royal. He wrote both sacred and secular music. He composed a set of motets jointly with Tallis in honour of Queen Elizabeth I. He also wrote for the virginals, a plucked string keyboard instrument.

Thomas Weelkes (b 1575, d 1623)

The organist at Winchester College at the age of 25 and Chichester Cathedral at 27. He wrote both secular and church music. Weelkes was famous for his light hearted madrigals but also wrote instrumental music for viols



Elizabeth I playing the lute.
All wealthy people were expected to play the lute.

Shakespeare died on his birthday, 23rd April 1616.

Elizabeth I was thought to be very clean - she had 4 baths a year, whether she needed them or not!

More than half of all taxes the French people paid to King Louis XIV were spent on building his sumptuous palace at Versailles.

RENAISSANCE FACTS

Leonardo da Vinci was a great engineer as well as an outstanding artist. He designed a helicopter, aeroplane and a submarine!

Sir Francis Drake was the most famous of Queen Elizabeth I's sea captains. Stories say he was playing bowls when the Spanish Armada attacked, but he vowed to finish his game before he went to war.