The Annunciation, Cavallini, 1291 - Medieval

The Annunciation, Verrocchio/Leonardo, 1480 - Renaissance
RENAISSANCE MUSIC 1450 -1600

Society:
Renaissance = the rebirth of creativity and curiosity - leading to scientific, intellectual, and philosophic endeavor, World exploration, artistic opulence, and self-expression.
- Humanism = a philosophy that stresses life on earth and human accomplishments therein, as opposed to an emphasis on preparation for the afterlife (Heaven vs. Hell).
- Protestant reformation: Catholic church no longer so influential
- Printing press invented: books became readily available - rise of literacy and education.
- end of feudal system, rise of capitalism, merchants, skilled craftsmen, growth of cities.

Musicians:
- Musicians worked for noble courts, churches, and towns - more respect, better pay.
- Main musical centers: Flanders (Netherlands, Belgium, Northern France), Italy, England

The Music
- Musical Style:
  - vocal music still preeminent - a cappella (voices alone, without instruments) - choirs
  - polyphonic - more voices than ever 4, 5, 6, 8, eventually evolves into a very high art.
  - flowing, consistent texture with multiple, often overlapping melodies. Imitative polyphony.
  - chords (triads) evolve - due to greater attention to harmony - consonance favored. Still modal.
  - Choral texture (all block chords) becomes more and more common throughout Renaissance.
  - word painting - due to the desire to be expressive, words "ascending, running, laughing, crying" musically portrayed.
• Forms:
  Sacred
  Motet - single text Josquin (1440-1521) Ave Maria...virgo serena
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXMZoKofu7g
  Mass - Palestrina (1525-1594, music director at St. Peters) -
  Counter - Reformation: dictated reaction secularization of church music:
  church music must be less extravagant, more restrained and serene, and thereby more
  appropriate for solemn worship.  Palestrina Pope Marcellus Mass Kyrie
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1crgNtyX0U

  Secular
  Madrigal – word painting, daring harmonies, elaborate imitative polyphony alternated with
  simpler chordal texture).  Weelkes (1575-1623) As vesta was descending
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95DJ7oqTWK8

  Instrumental Music -
  - often arranged from vocal music (specific instruments usually not indicated).
  - when specified, music composed idiomatically for instrument:
    lute, shawm, krumhorn, cornetto, sackbut, recorder, viols
    often for dancing (pavane - stately duple meter;  gaillard - lively triple meter).
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxPB76pmWss
  - for use in church (instrumental used to accompany voices)
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3YH0Zx2Ufc 2:45

    Lute Song Flow My Tears John Dowland
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkRrzAo9WI4

  FOR STUDY: Get to know:
  Alleluia: Vidimus stellam
  Machaut: Agnus Dei from Notre Mass
  Josquin: Ave Maria...virgo serena
  Palestrina: Kyrie from Pope Marcellus Mass
  Weelkes: As Vesta Was Descending
  Downland: Flow My Tears

  Be able to compare and contrast these selections
  in terms of subjective impressions and objective observations.