Descent from the Cross (Raphael, 1507) - Renaissance

The Entombment of Christ (Caravaggio, 1603) - Baroque
BAROQUE 1600-1750

**Society:**
- rise of mathematics, science: organization, need to find structure in Nature (Newton, Galileo)
- art: ornate, flamboyant, fill every space, structuring lines of perspective, motion and drama.
- middle class (skilled craftsmen, merchants) continues to grow.
- church power and influence weaken even more.
- aristocracy: most powerful and wealthy, pompous, self-aggrandizing, people always currying favor from aristocrats (Louis XIV - Versailles),
Musicians:
- Noble courts employed many musicians
  (essentially servants - size and quality of, big names in musical staff = a status symbol),
  music director turns out lots of new music for social occasions (many) - only for fellow aristocrats
- Church musicians - less status - always turning out new music -
  heard by the general public as well as aristocrats
- Town musicians - civic occasion, joined amateurs at coffee-clubs, music societies, at home.
The Music:
Early Baroque 1600-1640

**Opera** (play set to music) devised by the Florentine Camerata (a gathering of musicians, poets, humanists, and intellectuals) in an attempt to recreate Greek drama.

- Dramatic texts (ancient Greek legends), dramatic musical settings,
- Expressive melody (derived from madrigal) accompanied by
- **Basso continuo** - figured bass: bass line with numbers indicating specific chords.
- Played by bass line instrument (cello, theorbo), and keyboard (harpsichord, organ)
- - homophony (from late-renaissance chordal texture)

Peri: Euridice 1600 - 1st surviving opera

Claudio Monteverdi (director at St. Mark’s in Venice, 1567-1643):
- wrote madrigals, sacred music (for his church job), and *operas*.

Opera seria: alternation between:
- **recitative** (action), simple *chords and speech like singing*
- **Monteverdi: Tu se morta** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEgLr-YVRvs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEgLr-YVRvs)

- **aria** (stop action, commentary or reflection upon action)
  - with more elaborate instrumental accompaniment
- **Purcell** (1659-1695): *Dido’s Lament*, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeqR5dhUauM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeqR5dhUauM)

  - duets, choruses, instrumental interludes

- court opera production (lavish)
- commercial opera houses: public (rising middle class) could afford to attend
  - 1st in Venice 1637. Italy had the most, other countries had them too.

Castrato – talented boy singer from a poor family would be castrated so that he would grow up to be a singer with the voice of a boy, but with the strength of a man, and thus an operatic super-star. One of the greatest was Farninelli. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuSiuMuBLhM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuSiuMuBLhM)

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Baroque Opera 1600 – 1750
Mid Baroque 1640-1680
Music from this period tends to be very obscure these days but important:
- use of major and minor scales (instead of old church modes) becomes widespread
- rise of instrumental music - music written for specific instruments (strings, organ, keyboards, lute, - because instruments are better now)
  Buxtehude - organ music
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCaK50Hef4c
  opera very strong (especially in Italy, France too: Lully 1632-1672
  also England: Henry Purcell 1659-1695

Late 1680-1750 (High Baroque)
- unity of mood throughout piece – affectations: love/hate, joy/sorrow, wonder/desire
- rhythm - continuity: driving, ever present
- melody - continuity: ornate, always moving, flowing, expanding, unfolding, sequencing
- dynamics - constant (terraced)
- tonality (Major-minor scales and their inherent gravitational system) firmly established
- texture - again homogeneous. Reemergence of polyphony

- Instrumental Music firmly established - idiomatic writing... music composed for specific instruments.

  Ground Bass (Chaconne, Ricecare) -
  Pachelbel Canon in D
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soIQ52hkMXw

  Trio Sonata – 2 solo instruments + continuo - multi movement (contrasting)
  Corelli = father of modern violin music
  Corelli: Trio Sonata in A Major, Op 4. No.2
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwJzYv6HNI