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Some historical facts of the classical singing - part one

Lecture No3

Ever since at the farthest historical times, people have created songs. Some of these songs were hymns glorifying the Gods, others were exposing the sorrow in times of funeral ceremonies, and also there were songs, performed in holidays, or competitions too.

- In the Ancient Greece, singing was accompanied with an instrument: for example lire, trigonon, magadis and others. Throughout the history, there are names of Ancient Greek singers memorized: Terpander, Stesichorus, and others.



- There are historical facts about the art of singing in the Ancient Rome as well.

Three types of a singing school can be found in that period:

1. Vociferarril - teachers who used to work on the vocal diapason.
2. Phonashi - teachers, working of the vocal resonance.
3. Vocales - teachers of the vocal aesthetics.

- The historic data of the vocal art in the 15th century is not so rich, though it is known that the singers used the imitation as a voice method. In that period mainly professional singing was the church singing. The voice was required to be at the same time strong but tender, but also light. Same time the voice making should be never from the nose or from the throat.

- Throughout the Renaissance all of the arts in Italy have an active development. Each of us are aware of the names of Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarca, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raffaello, Tiziano, and others as well. All of these authors have been influenced by the Renaissance' idea of humanism. Making thus a new way of understanding out of the Ancient Greek's ideas of art.

As a big cultural center in the 16th century used to occur in Florence. The music school Camerata Florentine had been created. It was also known as Camerata de Bardi, that came out of the name of Count de Bardi. In his home many artists usually gathered for discussing the arts. The members of this activity were the poet and philosopher Ottavio Runaccini, the composers Jacobo Peri, Giulio Caccini, Emilio de Cavalieri, Pietro Strozzi, and the lutenist Vincenzo Galilei.

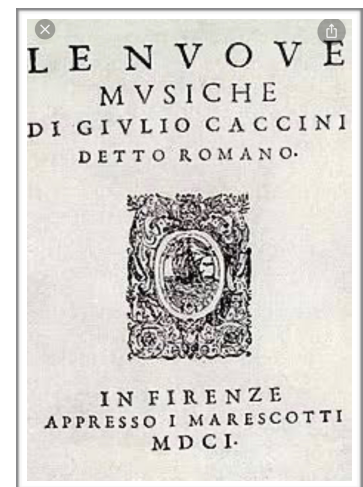
Most important of this period are:

- The lyrics have been defined as main element in the vocal music, that confirms the rhythm and melody.
- The basic concepts is that the singer became a soloist and artist. The singer can creates characters and roles on the stage and is not only a part of the music picture.
- Leonardo da Vinci had represented the first model of the larynx.
- Theoretical compositions about singing had been created. An example is the book "Nuove Musiche" by Caccini. "

This book includes ancient madrigals and theory where Caccini explains the rules of the singing. Some examples of his remarks are "*to be spoken musically*", "*clear diction and correct intonation*" and others.

Coloratura passages were used only where it is not being an obstacle of the text's pronunciation.

- Some of the earliest Italian operas have been written. Such as Jacolo Peri's "Dafne". "Eurodice" by Caccini, and others.
- The concept of "Dramma per musica" has been established. Thus had been called the operas in Florence at this period of time.



Gradually, singing schools had been sprung up at Rome, Venice, Milan, and Naples. The art of singing was developing very actively throughout the whole Italy at the end of 16th century, and the beginning of 17th century.