



Jacopo Peri



Early operatic experiments



I believed that the ancient Greeks and Romans used a kind of music more advanced than ordinary speech [in their tragedies], but less than the melody of singing, thus taking a middle position between the two. . . . Taking note of this usage and those accents that serve us in grief, joy, and similar states, I made the bass move in time, now faster, now slower, according to the affections.

—Jacopo Peri, Preface to Euritlice (1600)



Dafne
Poem by Rinuccini
Music by Jacopo Peri

The first opera?







SAMPLE SLIDES



Premiere performance
Teatro Santi Giovanni e Paolo
Carnival Season
1642




L'Incoronazione di Poppea
Music by **Monteverdi**
Libretto by **Busenello**

Venice
1642






Introduction to Italian vocal music of the late 16th and early 17th Centuries with particular focus on the development of opera. Looks at precursors such as the Florentine Intermedi and the Roman Oratorio, madrigal composers including Gesualdo, the Florentine Camerata, *The New Music*, the earliest examples by Peri and Caccini and the major achievement of Monteverdi. The role of patronage and the myth of Orpheus are also considered. Key scenes from several operas including Monteverdi's *Orfeo* and *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* are analysed and discussed.