Instruments of the Renaissance and their Music

Instrumental Music

- Lots of Uncertainty
  - little known before Renaissance
  - Increase only after 1450
- Documented in Art and Manuscripts
  - Sebastian Virdung
    - Musica getutscht und ausgezogen (1511)
  - Michael Praetorius
    - Sytagma Musicum (1618)
- Descriptions with woodcuts

Extraordinary Number and Variety

Instruments

- Built in Families called Consorts
  - Collections became fashionable
    - 70-80% Winds
  - Ranging Bass to Soprano
  - Terminology and Spellings vary Country to Country
Woodwind Instruments

- Woodwinds
  - Flutes
    - Lip Controlled
      - Transverse Flutes
  - Whistles
  - Recorders
Woodwind Instruments

- **Woodwinds**
  - Flutes
    - Lip Controlled
    - Transverse Flutes
  - Whistles
    - Recorders
  - Reeds
    - Lip Controlled
      - Shawms, Dulcians, Ranketts
Woodwind Instruments

- **Woodwinds**
  - **Flutes**
    - Lip Controlled
    - Transverse Flutes
  - Whistles
  - Recorders
  - Reeds
    - Lip Controlled
    - Shawms, Dulcians, Ranketts
    - Capped Reeds
      - Krummholms, Rauschpfeife
Brass Instruments

- Cupped Mouthpieces
  - Natural Materials
    - Ivory, Wood, Animal Horn
    - Cornetto
  - Metal
    - Trumpets
    - Slide Trumpets
    - Sackbutts
String Instruments

- **Strings**
  - Viols and Violins
    - Differences in shape, tuning and uses.
    - Viols: tuned in 4ths.
    - Violin: tuned in 5ths.
  - Lutes
    - By far the most popular
    - Vihuela: Spanish Type
      - Forerunner of modern guitar
## Keyboard Instruments

### Keyboards
- **Organ**
  - Portative (disappears early 1500’s)
  - Regal (reed pipes only)
  - Church organs (supportive and solo instrument)
- **Harpischord** (c. 1400)
  - Plucked Strings
    - clavicembalo, clavecin, spinet, virginal
- **Clavichord**
  - Struck Strings

![Keyboard Instrument Diagram](image-url)
Percussion Instruments

- Percussion
  - Larger instruments- Military and religious uses
    - kettledrums, side-drums
  - Smaller instruments- Secular uses
    - cymbals, bells, chimes, tambourines, etc.

*All Improvised*