Catholic Counter Reformation

Historical Background

- 1517  Martin Luther
- 1527  Capture and Sack of Rome
  - Spanish and German mercenaries of Charles V
- 1532  Henry VIII
- 1530’s  Jean Calvin

By 1540 England, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Poland, and Hungary were Protestant nations.

Reform now urgent work of the Catholics.

Council of Trent

- Purge the church of abuses and laxities
- Clarify Doctrine (not again until 1960’s)
- Met in Three sessions
  - December 1545-March 1547  10 meetings
  - April 1551-April 1552  6 meetings
  - January 1562-December 1563  9 meetings
- Music not discussed until 24th meeting!

*Five areas of Concern (Musically)*
“Areas of Concern”

1. Secular Cantus Firmi
2. Complicated imitative polyphony
3. Wide variances in Liturgical Music
   - Abolished all but 4 sequences
4. “Noisy” Musical Instruments
5. Irreverent attitudes and poor pronunciation and enunciation of singers.

Musical Effects

- Sound
  - Alternates Tension with Relaxation
- Harmony
  - Purity of Harmony with a limited Vocabulary
  - Chromaticism avoided
- Melody
  - Stepwise motion (like plainsong)
- Rhythm
  - Uncomplicated Rhythms but Variety
- Form
  - Emphasis placed on Function
- Texture
  - Very Transparent

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

- Early Training in Rome
- 1544-51 Organist in Palestrina
- 1551-55 Cappella Giulia, St. Peter’s
- 1555-Sept Singer at Sistine Chapel
- 1555-60 St. John Lateran
- 1561-65 St. Mary Maggiore
- 1565-71 Teacher at Jesuit Seminary
- Summer employment at Villa d’Este
- 1571-94 Cappella Giulia, St. Peter’s
- 1577 Appointed to prepare a new edition of the Graduale
  Published in 1614 and used until 1908
**Palestrina’s Music**

- 104 Masses (Most Significant)
  - NAWM 47 (p. 230)
- 375 Motets
- 68 Offertories
- 35 Magnificats
- 5 sets of Lamentations
- 50 Religious Madrigals
- 100 Secular Madrigals

**Contemporaries**

- Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)
  - Probably studied w/ Palestrina
  - Music is VERY Expressive
  - Compare with paintings of El Greco
    - NAWM 48 (p. 245)
- Orlando di Lasso (1532-94)
  - Last of the Netherlanders
  - Over 2000 works
    - Secular and Sacred
    - NAWM 49 (p. 251)