The Florentine Camerata and Early Opera

Florentine Camerata

- Girolamo Mei
  - Roman Cardinal
  - Intensive Study of Greek musical theory (1562-73)
- Giovanni Bardi and Vincenzo Galilei
  - Florence
  - Greeks obtained effect through a single melody
- Dialogo della musica antica et della moderna
  - Published by Galilei in 1581 attacking counterpoint in the madrigal
  - Solo melody to enhance natural speech: MONODY

Composers

- Emilio de’ Cavalieri (c.1550-1602)
- Giulio Caccini (1550-1618) NAWM 51 (p. 267)
  - Wrote out ornaments
- Jacopo Peri (1561-1633)

All of these composers strove for a kind of song that was between speaking and singing.

A new style was invented we call: Recitative
Operatic Forerunners

- Opera
  - A drama which combines soliloquy, dialogue, scenery, action, and continuous music
  - Greek Tragedy
  - Medieval Liturgical Dramas
  - Commedia dell’arte
  - Madrigal Cycles
  - Intermission of Renaissance Plays
    - *Intermedi* or *Intermezzi*

The First Opera(s)

- *Euridice* (1600)
  - Play by Ottavio Rinuccini
  - Music by Peri
    - First performed at Florence
    - Marriage of Henry IV of France and Maria de’Medici
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### The First Opera(s)

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