FRENCH OPERA

Lots of Logistic and Political Problems
Long standing theatrical tradition
- Tragedy and Comedy
French love of Ballet
French is difficult to sing
Introduction of Italian Opera in 1640’s
Louis XIV (b. 1638, r.1643-1715)
  - Wedding in 1660
  - 1661 personal control of the government
  - Privileges
    - Granted by minister of finance: J.B. Colbert

Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-87)
- Born in Florence
- 1646 to France
- 1652 to Paris
  - 1653 appointed “composer of Instrumental Music”
- 1661 French Citizen
- 1672 purchased the Privilège to produce opera
- 13 operas: Tragédie lyrique
  - Philippe Quinault
- 1687 Died (Jan 8-Mar 22)
Tragédie Lyrique

- Mythological Themes
  - Conflict of glory with duty or love
    - Pair of Lovers and One rival
- Romance
- Adventure
- Dancing (Ballet)
- Chorus
- Patriotic
- Prologue and Five Acts
- Italian Recitative adapted to French

FRENCH OVERTURE

- NAWM 68a (p. 403)
- Atmosphere for Opera
- Welcome for the King
- Strict Form
  - Slow Introduction
    - Homophonic
    - Dotted Rhythms
  - Imitative Allegro
  - Return to Slow section

French Recitative

- Italian Style adapted to French
- Récitif simple
  - shifting meters
- Recitativo mesuré
  - more song-like
  - measured style
- NAWM 68b (p. 405)