

Outline: The Evolution of Opera in Italy and Beyond

I. Monteverdi and the Rise of Venice (1613-1700)

A. Claudio Monteverdi's Move to Venice

1. Becomes maestro di cappella at the Church of San Marco
2. San Marco's prominence compared to St. Peter's in Rome

B. Venice as the Epicenter of Opera

1. Transition from private performances in Florence to public opera in Venice
2. Inauguration of Teatro San Cassiano in 1637 and the public opera's popularity
3. Venice's emergence as a vibrant artistic hub with 17 theaters and 388 operas by 1700

II. Venetian Composers and the German Influence

A. Notable Venetian Composers

1. Francesco Cavalli and Antonio Cesti's pivotal roles
2. Antonio Vivaldi's contributions to sustaining and expanding Venetian opera

B. The German Impact: George Frideric Handel

1. Handel's early Italian operas and move to England in 1711
2. Influence on spreading Italian opera popularity in England

III. Naples: The Second Italian Opera City

A. Naples as a Center of Artistic Experimentation

1. Renowned schools for composers, musicians, and singers

B. Leading Composers of Neapolitan Opera

1. Corelli, Durante, Jommelli, Pergolesi, and others pushing artistic boundaries
2. Influence spreading across Europe to Spain, Portugal, Saint Petersburg, and France

IV. Transformation in Opera Styles (Late 17th-18th Century)

A. Emergence of Opera Seria and Opera Buffa

1. Pietro Metastasio's role in shaping Opera Seria
2. Carlo Goldoni's contribution to the popularity of opera buffa

B. Pergolesi's *La serva padrona*

1. Model for the opera buffa genre
2. Staged as intermezzo to entertain during the three-act opera *Il prigionier superbo*

V. Opera Developments in France and Germany

A. French Opera Traditions

1. Giovanni Battista Lulli's foundational role

B. Gluck's Reforms and Influence

1. Noble Simplicity concept
2. Impact on German, Italian, and French opera

C. Mozart's Intuitive Approach

1. Deeper psychological depictions in contrast to Gluck
2. Collaborations with da Ponte and the perfection in mature works

D. Mozart's Adaptation of *Le Mariage de Figaro*

1. Charming portrayal with deeper character emotions
2. A transcendent approach to comic figures