

## RENAISSANCE ERA 1450-1600



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Typical Characteristics of Renaissance Music

- A cappella vocal music is still the norm.
- Sacred music forms include the Latin mass and motet.
- Much sacred music is built on pre-existing melodies (usually chants).
- Sacred vocal music begins to be written in the language that the people speak (vernacular) instead of exclusively in Latin.
- Secular vocal music includes English madrigal, Italian villancico, French chanson.
- Instrumental forms are developing (usually derived from dance music).
- Instruments remain unspecified. (Composer does not indicate which instrument plays which part)

Listening Selection: *Alma redemptoris mater* by Palestrina (ca. 1525-1594)

Directions: Listen to the recording and answer the following questions.

1. Based on your perceptive listening, circle the Renaissance characteristics which are present in *Alma Redemptoris Mater*.

Note: Do not circle every Renaissance characteristic, only the ones you can hear.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| A cappella                                 | Sacred text |
| Secular text                               | Latin text  |
| Vernacular text                            |             |
| Example of madrigal, villancico or chanson |             |
| Instrumental accompaniment                 |             |

2. Based on your listening, check all true statements:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds mostly hymn-like (all parts moving together/same words at same time)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds like a piece sung for women
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds like a piece sung by men and women
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accompaniment uses typical Renaissance instruments (lute, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds like it may be Latin
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds like a secular madrigal, villancico or chanson

3. How would you describe the mood or general feeling of this piece? Why do you think that mood might be characteristic of a Renaissance piece?

- Mood

- Why characteristic?