MUS-M 652-6945 Renaissance Music (3 cr)
Mo We 1:00-2:15 PM - Room MA007 - Prof. Giovanni Zanovello (giovzano@indiana.edu)

In this class we will explore the repertoire, history, and musical practices of Western Europe, ca. 1380-1600. We will study many masterpieces that often became models in the following centuries. More broadly, we will approach performance and compositional practices as well as a role of music in society that differs sometimes remarkably from practices today. The class is organized as a pro-seminar: the class time will involve a moderate amount of lecturing, in addition to class discussion and musical listening. Class attendance is strictly mandatory.

Pre-Requisites: P - MUS-M 501 and MUS-T 508 (or equivalents by examination)

Course goals: This class will enable students to:
• identify and describe a number of pre-1600 compositional techniques and musical styles
• trace the evolution of musical composition, performance, and reception from 1400 to 1600
• discuss issues related to the performance of early music
• investigate problems of authenticity and our relationship with the music of the past
• develop a basic knowledge of black void notation

Grading will be based on classroom participation (15%), week-five, midterm and final exams (10%, 30%, and 40% respectively), and a presentation (5%). It will be possible to carry out a research project for extra credit.

Topics will include: Before 1500 (Music and cultures; Musicians; A songbook for Beatrice: court, patronage, chanson; Piety and church; Structures and symbols in cantus firmus and canon)
Around 1500 (Number, medicine, and magic; Music and the ideal courtier; Josquin des Prez and the “perfect art”; Scribes, printers, and owners)
After 1500 (Music and the literary imagination; Music and the crisis of belief; The arts of Improvisation, Embellishment, and Variation; Empire, exploration, and encounter; Tradition and innovation around 1600)

Textbooks:
• Other readings and scores available through Canvas.