

## **Explorations in Early and Baroque Music**

This course focuses on early musical traditions in selected Western societies. The music includes both vocal and instrumental music arising in Western Europe from the Medieval period, through the Renaissance and finally into the Baroque period, encompassing the years roughly 500 – 1760. Featured in this course will be the early musical traditions of Germany, Italy, France and England, although diverse forms of early music arose in other regions of Europe, as well as in non-Western societies around the world.

This seemingly quiet, well-established tradition of music actually has its controversies. The very timeline of this music is not universally agreed upon. The merits of playing this music on so-called “period instruments” (instruments of the time) versus “modern instruments” are debated. Stylistic differences in playing this music abound. Finally, this is a musical tradition that was revived most recently in the 1960’s, during a socially tumultuous time, and the story of its revival is very interesting.

Each week there will be a different presenter, along with instruments, vocalists and occasionally, musical ensembles. Presenters have been drawn from The Guild for Early Music (Mercer County), Princeton University’s Department of Music, and other local specialists and instructors in various forms of early music, including harpsichord and early opera. The course is designed to give presenters time to lecture on their material, demonstrate on instruments or in other ways, where appropriate, and finally to engage participants in questions and answers, and an up-close viewing of instruments.

### **Text for course (to be purchased)**

*Early Music: A Very Short Introduction*, Thomas Forrest Kelly, Oxford University Press: 2011

**LEADERS:** Peggy de Wolf and Harold Kuskin with presentations by Gavin Black, Mary Benton, John Burkhalter, Joyce Chen, Paul Dorsey, and Wendy Young.

**TUESDAYS:** 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks: February 25 through April 14

**LOCATION:** The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, Maximum 25 seats