

## The Florentine Camerata and its Influence on the Beginnings of Opera

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Jones, Micaiah Haven, "The Florentine Camerata and its Influence on the Beginnings of Opera" (2021).  
*The Research and Scholarship Symposium*. 5.

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# A New Genre By Mistake: The Florentine Camerata

Who Were They? What Did They Do?

By Micaiah Jones



# OPERA: Who came first?

- The first known surviving opera is Jacopo Peri's *Euridice*.
- Jacopo Peri and Ottavio Rinuccini, *Dafne*
- Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*



# What was the Florentine Camerata?

- From Florence, Italy; met to speak about music
- Similar to a Renaissance Salon
- Giovanni di Bardi
- Critical of music of the day– namely, Madrigals
- Vincenzo Galilei, *Dialogue on Ancient and Modern Music*
- Ancient Greek Drama– **Monody**



# Monody: What's the Big Deal?

- Monody: accompanied solo song consisting of a vocal line that is simple and expressive
- Girolamo Mei
- Letters between Vincenzo Galilei and Girolamo Mei: discussing the issue of monody



# Moving Forward: What Impact did the Camerata Have?

- Opera as a byproduct of a greater desire
- Humanistic idea of *imitatio*– imitation of the ancient Greeks
- Giulio Caccini
- Jacopo Peri

