

Some seventeenth-century classifications of style

Claudio/Giulio Cesare Monteverdi (1605/1607)

Prima pratica

Seconda pratica

[harmony as mistress  
of the words]

[words as mistress  
of the harmony]

Claudio Monteverdi (1638)

genere: concitato, molle, temperato

modi: teatrale, da camera, da ballo

G. B. Doni (1635)

stile antico

stile moderno

(grave, a cappella, osservato,  
alla Palestrina)

Marco Scacchi (1649)

stylus ecclesiasticus	stylus cubicularis	stylus theatralis
masses, motets 4-8 parts, without organ	unaccompanied madrigals ( <i>da tavolino</i> )	recitative style
masses, motets 4-8 parts, with organ, incl. cori spezzati	vocal works with basso continuo	
masses and motets, concerted with instruments	vocal works with instruments	
motets and concerti in modern style (incl. <i>stile misto/recitativo imbastardito</i> --mixed)		

Athanasius Kircher (1650)

stylus ecclesiasticus/ligatus (incl. stylus motecticus)

stylus canonicus

stylus phantasticus (freely invented subjects, esp. instr.)

stylus madrigalescus

stylus melismaticus (measured—strophic arias)

stylus hyporchematicus/choraicus (dances)

stylus symphonicus (ensembles)

stylus dramaticus/recitativus (representation of any affection)