

Preparing for A105: recall what a madrigal is

6.6 THE CONCERTO DELLE DONNE OF FERRARA

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From Book 1, *Reputations*, Chapter 6 The Diva, p.186.

The Ferrarese madrigals

The madrigal is a short vocal work generally light-hearted in nature, and so is ideal as after-dinner entertainment. There are two main compositional techniques associated with the madrigal, **imitation** and **word painting**, both of which will become familiar to you as we work through this section. The cultivation of the madrigal is particularly associated with the courts of Ferrara and Mantua throughout the sixteenth century, and it is no wonder that the ducal library at Ferrara contained a significant number of madrigal collections. The purchasing and commissioning of madrigals was closely linked with the success of court musicians: the better the musicians, the more music that was required; providing more music encouraged the musicians to develop their performing skills, and so the cycle continued.