

secular work printed in Italy containing music, and the oldest publication containing melodies or songs.

The earliest example in the Exhibition of music printing in France is contained in a Missal printed at Lyons in 1485. The lines or staff only are printed, leaving the actual notation to be inserted by hand.

England comes last. The first book known to contain music published in this country is Higden's 'Polychronicon,' printed by Wynkyn de Worde in the year 1495. This venerable tome contains only a few notes, as in the case of Gerson's 'Collectorium super Magnificat,' the first German specimen.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, England was certainly a musical nation, and great numbers of madrigals and other compositions were published. These, which began in 1571 and continued until about 1630, maintained the highest rank. The collection of Madrigals of this period in the Exhibition was probably larger than any that previously had been brought together. An enormous number of books of Psalms with music were published during the same period, and the Exhibition was particularly rich in the display of these books. A large number of Madrigals and some Psalters of foreign production were also shown.

The modern opera was invented in Italy; its first example, 'Euridice,' by Jacopo Peri, printed and performed in the year 1600, found a place among the exhibits. The first Oratorio was also produced in Italy about the same time, but unfortunately no copy of this was procurable.