

involved melodies that included multiple instruments and voices in the final sound. His influence with these new pieces was very important to the spread of similar music in the Renaissance. One of his more famous motets, *Miserere*, which was influenced by Girolamo Savonarola, was created while des Prez was in Ferrara.

Des Prez's stay in Ferrara was not as lengthy as he had originally hoped, however. Fear and death spread into Ferrara as an outbreak of the plague overtook the city's pesky rats (who quickly spread it to surrounding humans). Duke Ercole I had no choice but to leave his city behind, taking his family and the majority of his citizens with him. As it turns out, it is hard to successfully find payment when the city in which one is working is practically barren, so des Prez had no choice but to leave the city himself. He packed up his things and was gone by April of the following year, and part of his reasoning was most probably for the sake of escaping the plague and leaving its effects behind. After he left Ferrara, des Prez travelled to his home and lived the remainder of his life there peacefully, but still continued writing music. He spent the last twenty years of his life living comfortably and being acknowledged for his contributions to the music of the Renaissance.

My great-great-great-great grandfather's musical contributions were very important to both the Renaissance and modern-day music, and I think that anybody with a bit of common sense should be able to see that. The impact of his work on the Renaissance was immediately apparent: Heinrich Isaac, the alternative choice for Ercole I's chapel, based most of his music around innovation that des Prez was responsible for. I suppose it's a good thing that Ercole picked des Prez, because otherwise all of those great contributions that des Prez made would have ended up seeming rather ironic: his own work was what brought his downfall when being selected for the new job at the chapel. Des Prez inspired other musicians as well, and was one of the first to truly offer the experience of listening to multiple parts collide with each other as they overlapped melodies. After his work, music from the Renaissance was filled with individuality in regards to separate parts, and des Prez was clearly the milestone that made this transition possible.

This type of music still affects modern-day music. Listening anywhere, it's hard to find music *without* lots of intersecting parts. The most important thing about des Prez's music was the overlap of parts that made side-by-side interaction sound beautiful. When I listen to "A l'heure que je vous", I cannot help but feel proud that my own great-great-great-great grandfather was the one to come up with the beautiful melodies. It contains four simple parts, each playable by a novice instrument player. Still, the interactions among parts make it a very unique piece, even though it is only one insignificant chanson out of many. How did Josquin manage to write so many great music in his relatively short lifetime? It is an amazing thing to do, and des Prez was able to do it. Music will always contain melodies that work with each other, and it's amazing to think that Josquin des Prez was one of the true pioneers of this way of musical thinking.

Personal Narrative

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I had always known that marching band competitions were intense, but I did not expect them to leave as much of an impact as they eventually did. Others told me how much fun the competitions were, and that waiting to hear the scores was nerve-racking. Still, I hadn't expected to both love and hate the judging process as much as I did. Though the bleachers are cold, and the wind is harsh, the adrenaline produced during those few moments makes the entire season worth it.

This year's marching band season started in late summer, and it was my first. I was standing