Monday 28th September - Opera 1 lecture.

**Opera 1** introduction & Monteverdi: what will be covered over the coming weeks?

* Swift intro to opera from 17th - 20th C.

During the 19th C opera was a popular art form; it was seen as a "window on history," an expression of national identity and a political action.

**Suggested reading**

- Parker: "The Oxford Illustrated History of Opera"
- Grove: Oxford Music Guide
- Arblaster: "Viva la libera!" politics in opera

~ Monteverdi & the Birth of opera... ~

where/why did opera arise?

- Courtly entertainments
- Intellectual debate: the Camerata

1: originated in Florence
- Used to present the wealth and power of the court

connections for renowned extravagance