



BARBARA STROZZI



Timeline

1619	1630	1635	1644	1677	1982
Born in Venice, Italy	She survives the plague which arrives in Venice	Strozzi's father begins to share her talents with others	Strozzi publishes her first of 8 volumes of work	Strozzi dies in Padua, Italy and her music becomes largely forgotten	Her work is rediscovered and there is a renewed interest in her work and life story

Key Songs

La Vittoria. Il Primo Libro de Madrigali a Due, Op. 1	1644 - This collection marks Strozzi's debut as a published composer and includes a series of non-religious compositions for two voices.
Che si può fare	1644 - Barbara Strozzi's most famous aria. An aria is a solo voice performance with an instrument, often found in operas.
L'Eraclito amoroso	1651 - This piece showcases her talent for blending emotional expression with delicate vocal lines.
Lagrimie mie	1659 - This work is a good example of her expressive style and emotional depth in vocal music.

The Importance of Barbara Strozzi

Being a Female Composer

Most women who did manage to make money composing would often publish their work under a male name. Women composers were not often taken seriously. Barbara Strozzi did not want to do this. She wanted to be recognised for who she was, so she published work under her own name, with her own money. She is one of the few female composers to achieve recognition and success during the Baroque period of classical music.

Perseverance

Barbara Strozzi survived as a young girl when the plague arrived in Venice in 1630. She also raised four children by herself. She produced a huge volume of works despite being a woman, and not being allowed a formal education. She was a determined and hardworking composer who filled venues in Venice with her outstanding compositions.

Famous Events

Access to Music Education

Although girls were not allowed a formal education, Strozzi's father was a poet and wrote words for operas. He saw Barbara's talents and paid for tutors to give her musical training from a young age.

Il Primo Libro di Madrigali (1644)

Published in her own name, by herself, Strozzi's first volume of work shows how determined she was. This paved the way for her next 7 volumes of works and marked the beginnings of a career as a professional musician.

The Plague

The Plague of 1630 caused tens of thousands of deaths in Venice. It was likely introduced through infected rats from the shipping trade and spread due to crowded conditions and poor hygiene. Strozzi survived, but it is likely she would have faced personal loss and many challenges during this time.



DID YOU KNOW?



Barbara Strozzi was renowned for her singing abilities and composed over 125 vocal works.