Timeline of Sacred Music Development

**Psalmody**

- **Roman Catholic music:** Gregorian chants started in the 9th & 10th century, are Latin translations of psalms sung by clergy during mass even into the 20th century.

- **Early psalmody** was just vocal: paradoxical, since psalms often mention use of musical instruments in praise of God.

- **1640** Puritans in the American Massachusetts Bay Colony: Faithfully translated Book of Psalms into English metrical

- **1701-1800** Metrical psalmody is norm
  - 1720 1st New England singing school
  - 1737 Methodists start hymnody
  - Catholics continue Latin tradition

- **1801-1900** Metrical psalmody begins to die out
  - 1850 Complete Watts is hymnal of choice, Sunday school songs become popular
  - 1871 Denominational hymn books published
  - Catholics continue Latin tradition

- **1901-2000** Hymn singing is norm
  - 1945 1st hymnals by Southern Baptists & African Americans
  - 1959 Vatican II allows some English into Catholic mass

**Hymnody**

- **1500-1550**
  - **John Calvin** 16 Jan 1536 introduced congregational singing into worship services
  - **Isaac Watts** 1674-1748 Father of hymnology: Only Biblical verses, (psalmody) no instruments
  - **Samuel Davies** 1723-1761 Father of American hymnology: “Eternal Spirit, Source of Light”

- **1650-1700**
  - **John Newton** 1725-1807 “Amazing Grace”
  - **William Bradbury** 1816-1868 “Jesus Loves Me Just as I Am” “He Leadeth Me” “Sweet Hr of Prayer” “My Hope is Built”

- **1750-1800**
  - **Lorenzo Lyons** 1807-1886 “Hawaii Aloha”
  - **Lewis Redner** 1831-1908 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
  - **Phillip Bliss** 1838-1876 “Sing Them Over Again to Me”
  - **Elisha Hoffman** 1839-1929 “What a Wonderful Savior”

- **1850-1900**
  - **Fanny Crosby** 1820-1915 “Blessed Assurance”
  - **Clara Scott** 1841-1897 “Open My Eyes that I May See”
  - **Ella Wheeler Wilcox** 1850-1919 “When We All Get to Heaven”

- **1901-2000**
  - **Thomas Dorsey** 1899-1993 Father of gospel music
    - “Motto on Words from the Book of Job”
    - “Chorale For a New Organ”
    - “God’s Grandeur”
  - **Samuel Barber** 1910-1981 Pioneer of the American symphony
    - “Chorale For a New Organ”
    - “God’s Grandeur”

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Presbyterian Links to Sacred Music

created by Dave Goodale