**Chapter 10**

RESEARCH

The word oratorio comes from the earliest performance locations of these works. Research the word “oratorio” online to discover its meaning in terms of a performance venue. How does this meaning relate to the musical use of the word? Report your research to your course discussion board of the textbook Dashboard.

RESEARCH: Music and Religion

<http://www.academicroom.com/topics/religion-and-music>

This text deals almost exclusively with Christian sacred music. However, all cultures have developed some kind of art/music that helped them express their spiritual ideas. What defines music as sacred music? What universal technical features are common in world sacred music? Report your research to your class discussion board or the textbook Dashboard. Many of the works in this chapter are sacred music written for the concert hall rather than for performance in the church or cathedral. This essay discusses how myths, symbolism, and ritual come together in music to represent and express religion.

EXPLORE: Male Sopranos

<http://www.guywhosingshigh.com/cms/?page_id=36>

One of the oddest traditions in music was the castrato, the male soprano mutilated in youth so that he could sing with the power of man’s voice but in the register of a woman. Used primarily in opera and oratorio this in the past the tradition ended in the very early 20th century. Today these parts are still sung by men but men who have developed a special way of singing in a register called countertenor, they are not castati. At this site you are introduced to David Hanson, one of the world’s greatest countertenors. Here you can watch videos showing him singing in this special range.