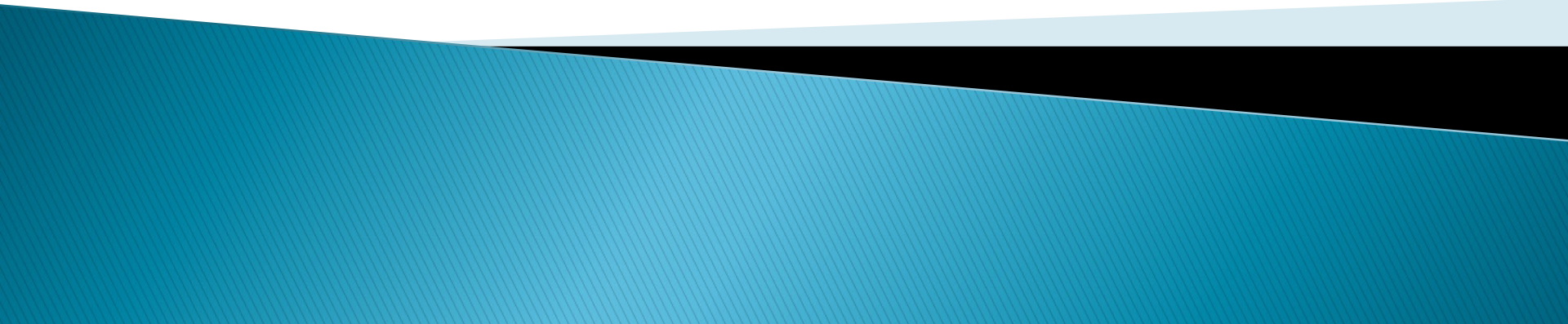
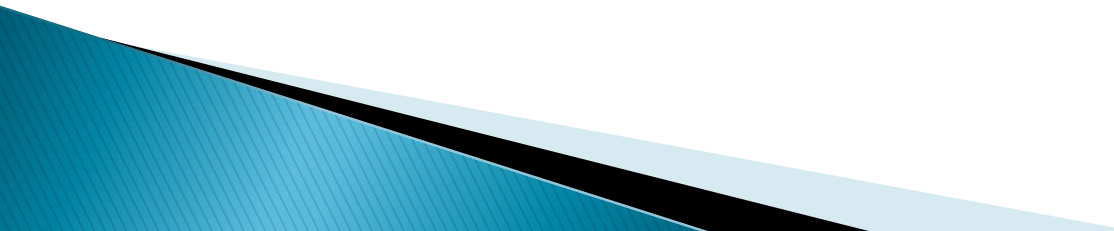


The Musical Theatre

A Synoptic View



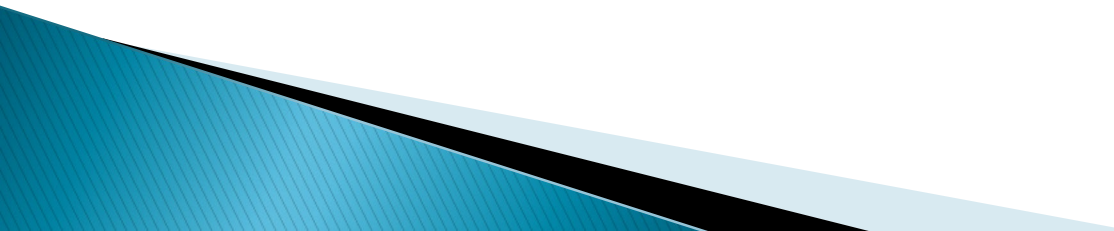
The history of the musical–Greece, Middle Ages

- ▶ The history of the musical – ancient Greece;
 - ▶ 5th century B.C.– most plays in Greece were staged with up to three actors and a chorus;
 - ▶ beside dialogue, plays contained songs and dance;
 - ▶ Middle Ages– religious cycle plays incorporated music to be more appealing.
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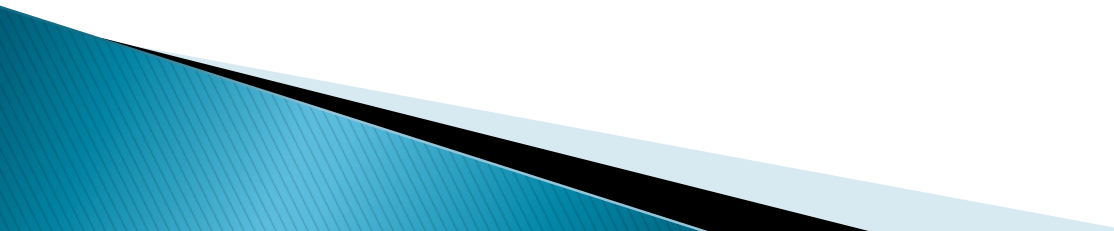
Renaissance

- ▶ King Louis XV of France, to offer more entertainment to the masses, asked Moliere to adapt his plays and add music and dance to his productions.
- ▶ The new musical theatre style developed and by the 1700s there were, according to Shay Thornton, two types of musicals called the ballad opera and comic opera:
 - ▶ “ The ballad opera used popular songs of the day with new lyrics, while the comic operas had original songs and a more romantic plot development.” (Thornton 2019, 5)

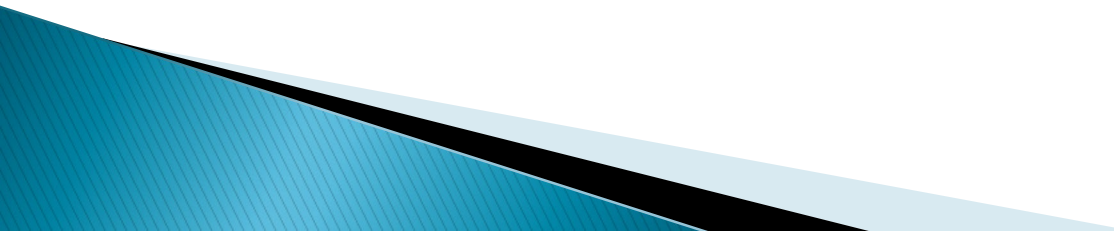
19th century

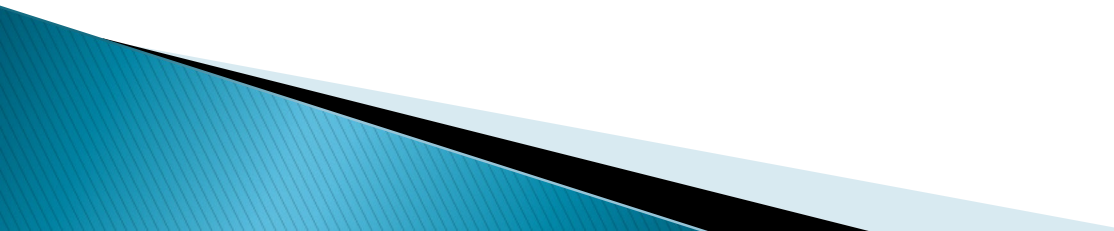
- ▶ In the 19th century – a popular entertainment genre;
 - ▶ the pioneers of musical theatre are the European ballad and comic opera composers such as William S. Gilbert, Arthur Sullivan, Jacques Offenbach, Johan Strauss or Franz Lehar;
 - ▶ The first hubs were the West End in London followed by the Paris and Vienna stages.
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Broadway

- ▶ The great age of the musical theatre is the 1940s when Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rogers combined drama and music in *Oklahoma* – a first worldwide musical success.
 - ▶ Broadway in New York – the leading hub for musicals;
 - ▶ Other important musicals composers – Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Andrew Lloyd Webber;
- 

Musicals today

- ▶ The musical theatre may be subdivided into different categories: Opera, Operetta, Comic Opera, Musical Revue, and Musical Comedy.
 - ▶ The lyrics of the musical pieces may be written by the composer or by another song writer.
 - ▶ In many songs incorporated in musicals, the lyrics serve as part of the narrative or outline a character's feelings.
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- ▶ An important part of musicals is the *book*.
 - ▶ The *book* or the *libretto* is the skeleton of the musical and it provides the structure of the play.
 - ▶ The *musical number* is the key structural unit of a musical and it is the element that increased the popularity of the genre turning them into mega musical shows (Pop, 2021, 221, 222)
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- ▶ Thornton, S. 2019. *Hello Dolly! Theatre Under the Stars*. Houston: Bagby
- ▶ <https://www.mnfieldtriplibrary.org/>