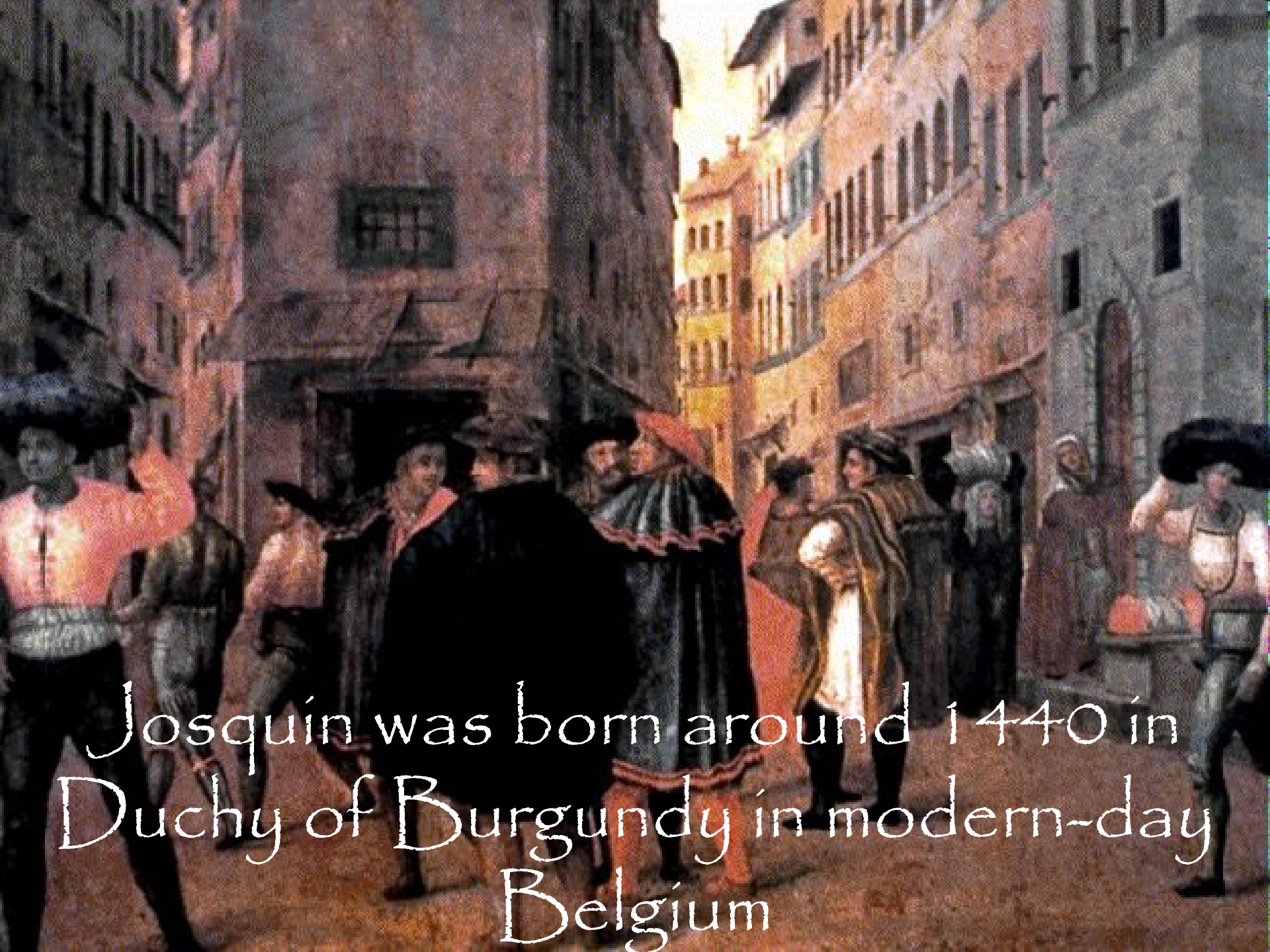




Josquin Des Prez



Josquin was born around 1440 in
Duchy of Burgundy in modern-day
Belgium



Josquin was a singer at Milan Cathedral in 1459, the world's 3rd largest cathedral in the world, and stayed there until December 1472.

Because
Josquin was very
new and
profound in
expression, he
became the most
wanted composer
in all of Italy in
the 1460's.



He spent most of his early years traveling around Italy working as a singer and composer for the pope, the king, and other high-ranking officials.



KING LOUIS XII



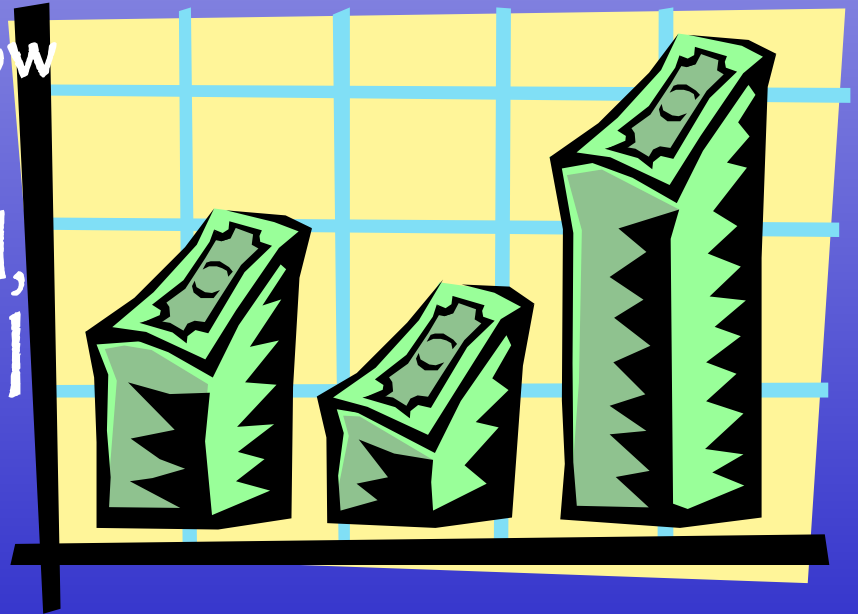
Josquin also even traveled as far as France to work for King Louis XII. He spoke both French and Italian.

Josquin had a good sense of humor. After he grew tired of waiting for a raise that Louis XII had promised him, Josquin composed a song with the following words, "Remember thy word unto thy servant."

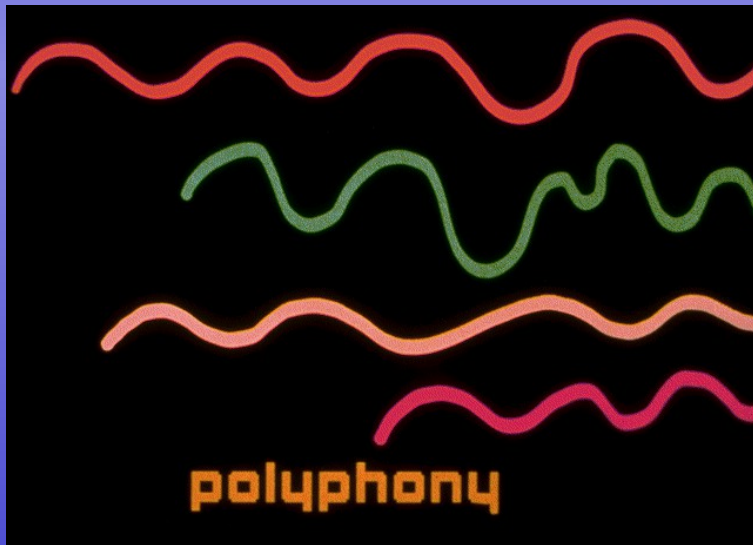
King Louis got the message and gave him a raise. After this, Josquin composed another song with the words, "Lord, though has dealt graciously with thy servant."



Josquin seemed to have an obsession with money. He was the highest paid choir director in the courts of Ferrara in all of history, and he worked for the wealthiest and most powerful officials in all of Europe, but he still complained about not having enough money. One of his best known French songs is called "Faulx whangista" song about how boring it is to have no money. The words read, "if I say so, it is because I know."



Josquin is considered to be one of
the greats of polyphonic music.
Polyphonic means...

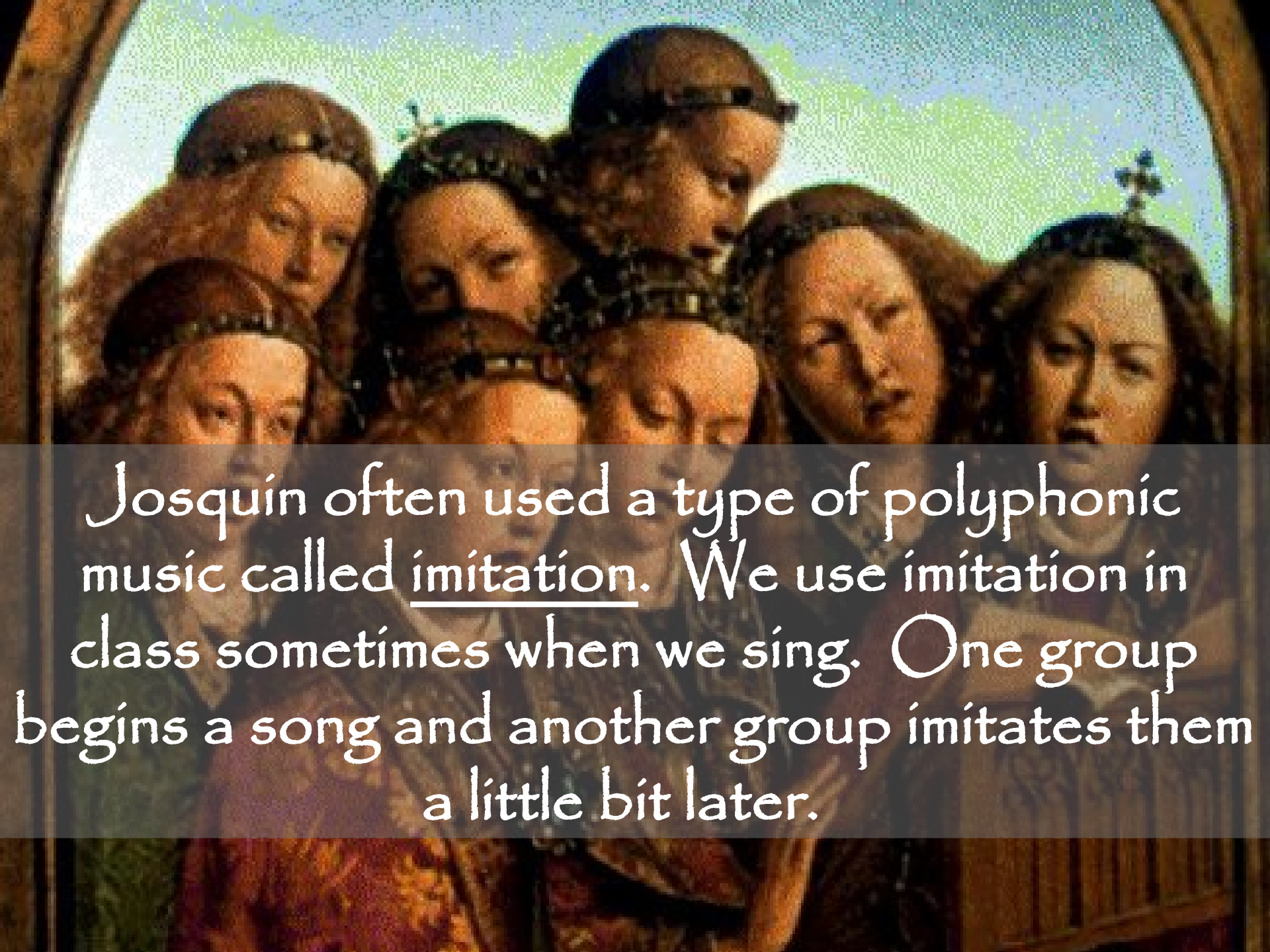


Poly=many

Phonic=sound

Poly+phonic=

Many melodies at
the same time

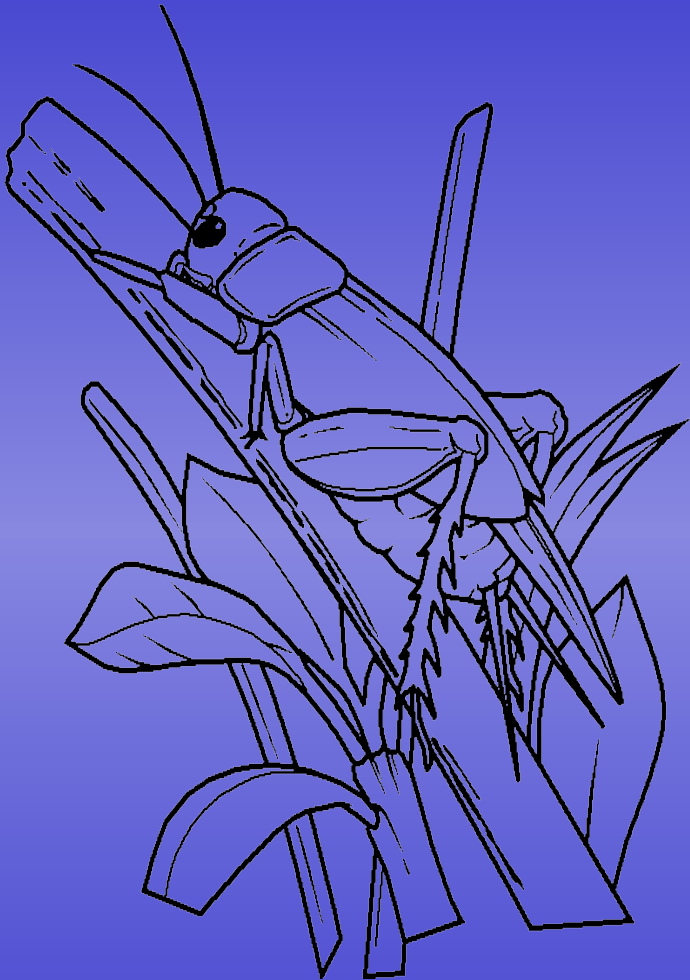
A group of people, likely a choir, are shown in a semi-transparent image. They are looking down and to the side, suggesting they are singing or reading from a book. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing the following text:

Josquin often used a type of polyphonic music called imitation. We use imitation in class sometimes when we sing. One group begins a song and another group imitates them a little bit later.



Josquin was especially good at text painting. This is when the music mimics the words to a song.

An example of
this text painting
idea is Josquin's
song, "El Grillo"
(The Cricket).



Josquin was well-known throughout Italy and France and was one of the very first people to be known solely by his first name only.

Josquin went to France in 1503 to avoid the plague. The composer who took his place (Obrecht) caught the plague the next year. Josquin lived in France for the rest of his life and died in the city of Conde in 1521.





Much of what we know about Josquin's life is from his music. With his linguist's mind and his mathematician's mind, he redirected western music. At the end, he gave his house and land to the Church of Notre Dame

A detailed Renaissance painting of a church interior. In the center, a choir of men in dark robes with white collars is singing. To the right, an organist in a dark robe is seated at a large organ. The background shows a woman in a white dress and a man in a white hat. The scene is lit with warm, golden light.

Composer:

Josquin des Prez

Song Title:

Nunc Dimittis

(click to start and click to play again)

Three small, blue, stylized speaker icons are arranged horizontally at the bottom left of the page.