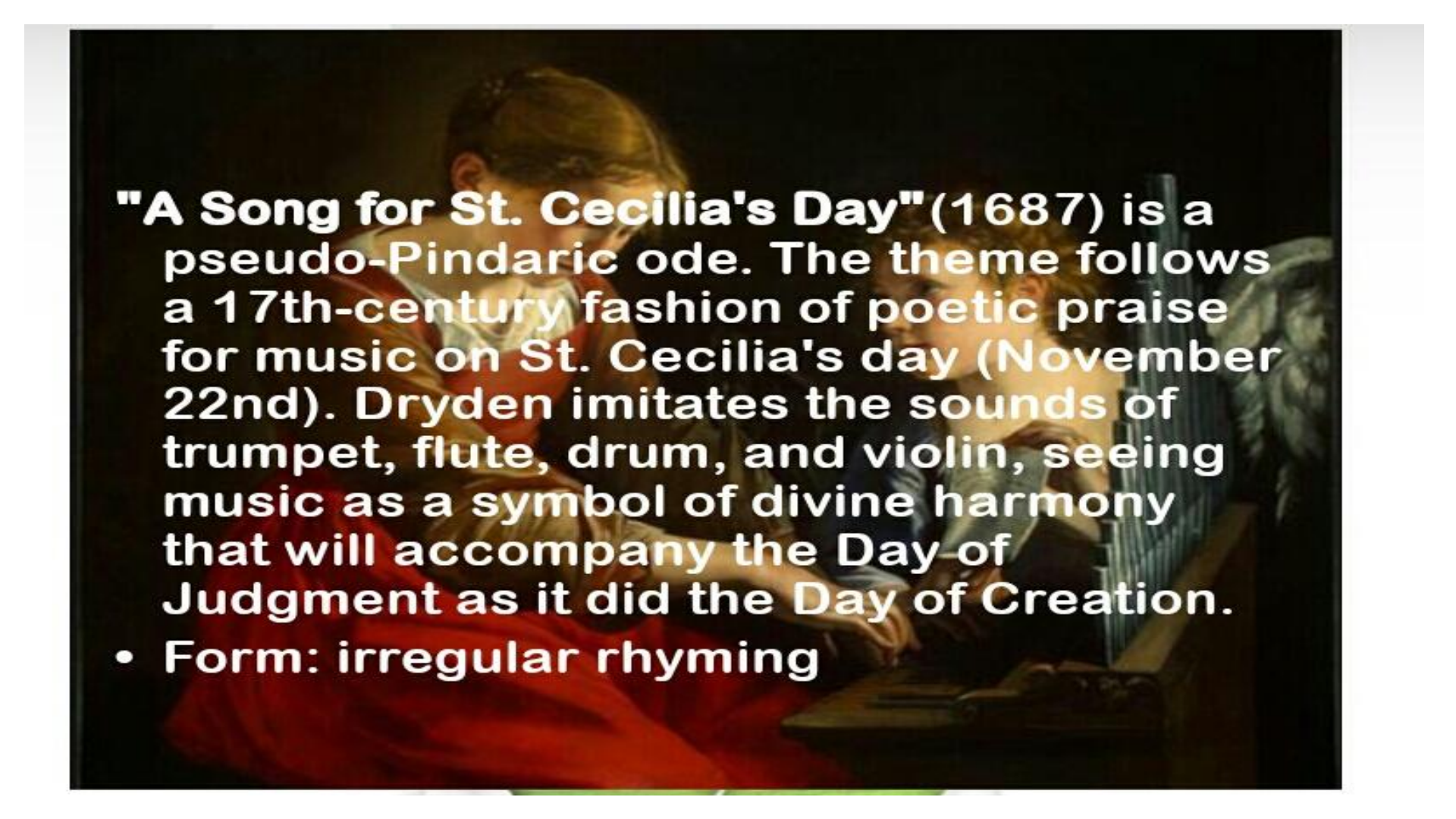


A painting depicting St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, seated at an organ. She is shown in profile, wearing a red and brown robe, looking down at the keys. To her right, a young boy is also seated at the organ, looking towards her. In the background, an angel is visible, partially obscured by the organ pipes. The scene is dramatically lit, with strong highlights on the figures against a dark background.

*A Song for St. Cecilia's
Day by John Dryden*



"A Song for St. Cecilia's Day" (1687) is a pseudo-Pindaric ode. The theme follows a 17th-century fashion of poetic praise for music on St. Cecilia's day (November 22nd). Dryden imitates the sounds of trumpet, flute, drum, and violin, seeing music as a symbol of divine harmony that will accompany the Day of Judgment as it did the Day of Creation.

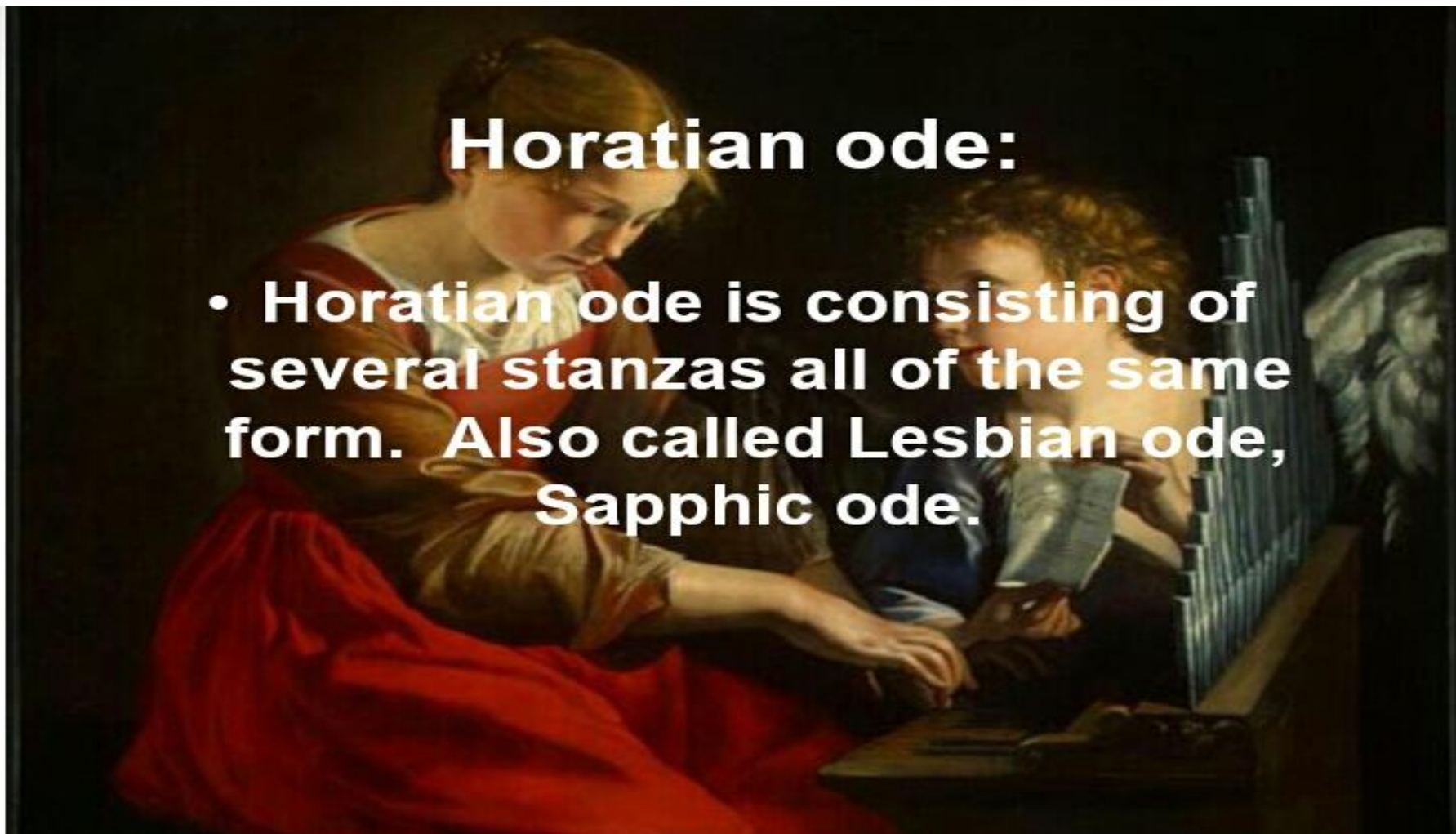
- **Form: irregular rhyming**

ODE

- **Ode: a lyric poem with complex stanza forms**
- **Lyric poem, lyric - a short poem of songlike**
- **Horatian ode, Sapphic ode - an ode with several stanzas**
- **Pindaric ode - an ode form used by Pindar; has triple groups of triple units**
- **Choral ode - ode sung by the chorus in classical Greek drama**
- **Ode - a lyric poem with complex stanza forms - ode sung by the chorus in classical Greek drama**

Horatian ode:

- Horatian ode is consisting of several stanzas all of the same form. Also called Lesbian ode, Sapphic ode.



Horatian Ode



• Horatian odes, after the Latin poet Horace (65-8 B.C.), were written in quatrains in a more philosophical, civil manner. Examples include Andrew Marvell's *Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland* and Collins' *Ode to Evening*.

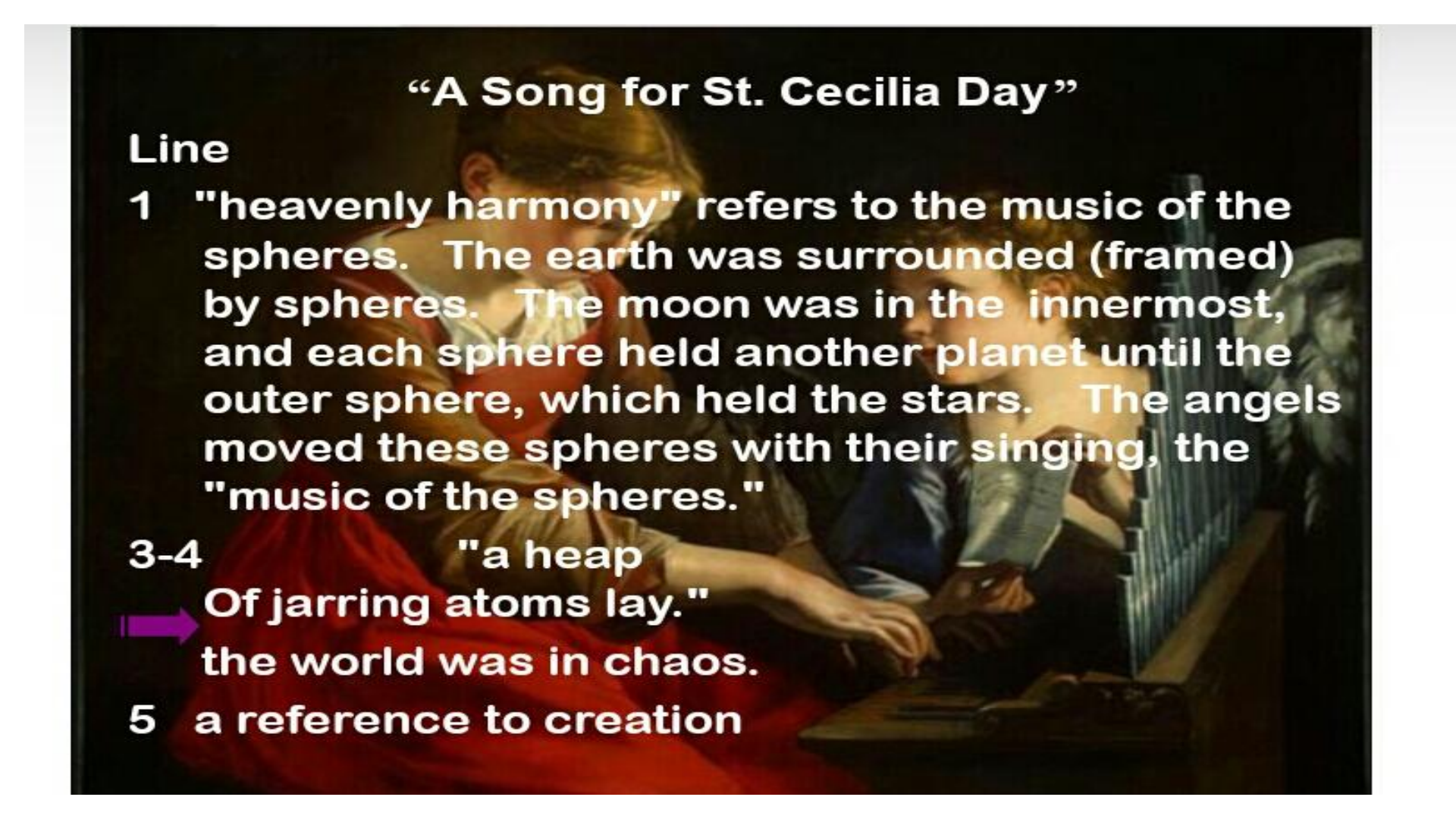
A painting depicting a woman in a red dress seated at a desk, writing with a quill. A young boy stands beside her, looking at her work. The scene is dimly lit, with a window in the background showing a view of a city or landscape. The overall mood is one of quiet concentration and intellectual pursuit.

Pindaric Ode:

- **Pindaric Ode: The Pindaric ode imitates the passionate manner of Pindar (ca. 552-442 B.C.) and consists of a strophe, an antistrophe, and an epode, all irregular. Example: William Wordsworth's "Ode: Intimations of Immortality."**

“A Song for St. Cecilia Day”

Line

- 
- 1** "heavenly harmony" refers to the music of the spheres. The earth was surrounded (framed) by spheres. The moon was in the innermost, and each sphere held another planet until the outer sphere, which held the stars. The angels moved these spheres with their singing, the "music of the spheres."
- 3-4** "a heap
Of jarring atoms lay."
the world was in chaos.
- 5** a reference to creation

8-9

The terms refer to the 4 elements. The music creates the world from chaos.

Cold	Earth
Hot	Fire
Moist	Water
dry	Air

Singing is a form of speaking, so Dryden's assertion that heavenly music created the universe is an extension of Gen. 1 & John 1, which depict God as creating the universe through his word.

15

Diapason = the whole musical scale, from the highest note to the lowest. It is an illustration of the great Chain of Being. Man, being created last, completed the chain.

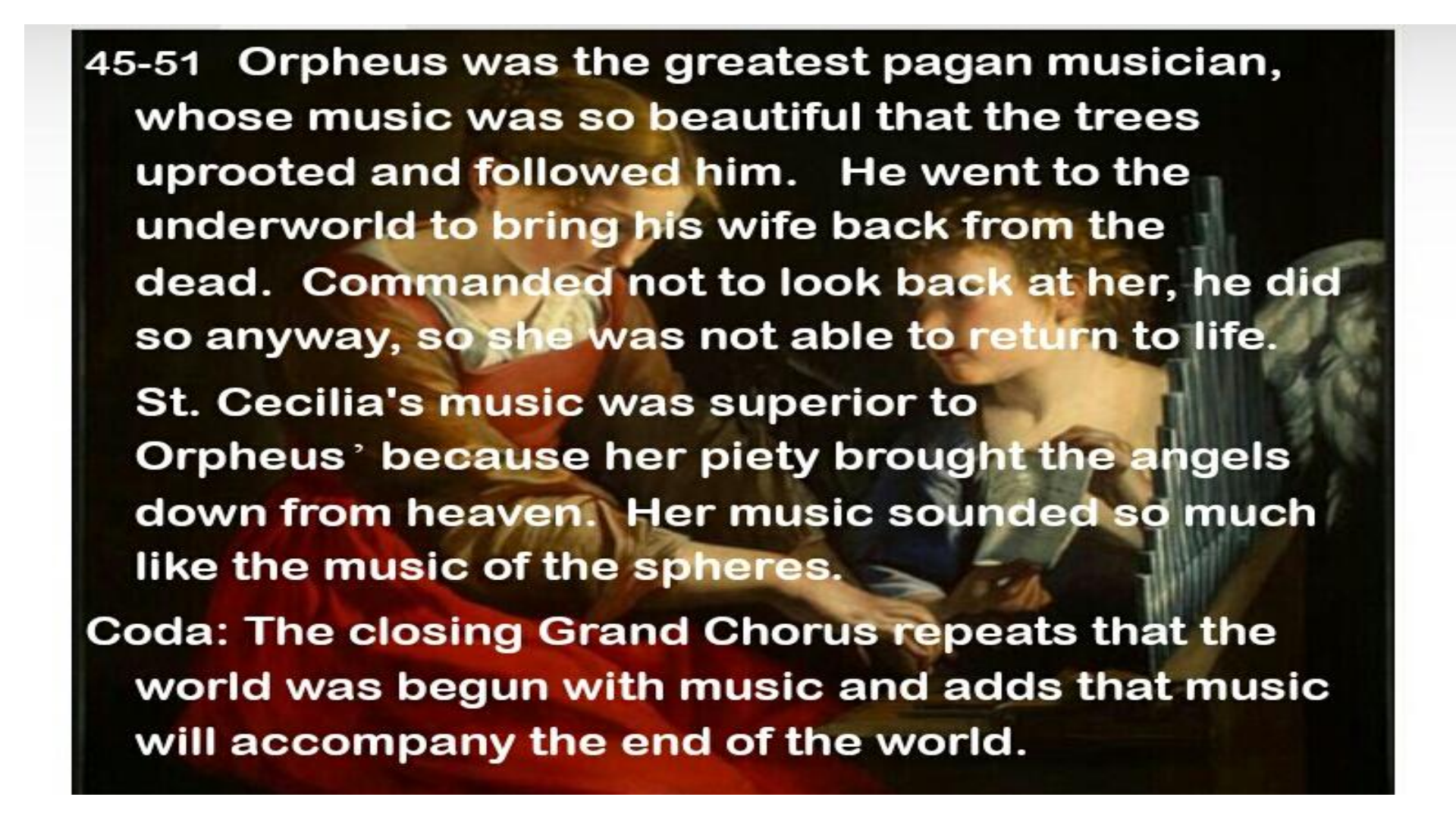
16-17

The second stanza moves from celestial to terrestrial harmony. Human music started with Jubal (Gen. 4:21).

24

This line sets up the next several stanzas. Music arouses passions within us. He then goes on in the following stanzas to catalogue the types of music and their respective passions.

Stanza	Instrument	Emotion
3	Trumpet	War; agitation; excitement
3	Drum	War; agitation; excitement
4	Flute	Love
4	Lute	Sadness; mourning
5	Violin	Disdainful; dame's passion
6	Organ	Worship; holiness

A painting depicting St. Cecilia playing an organ. She is shown in profile, wearing a red dress and a white veil, looking down at the organ. An angelic figure stands behind her, holding a book. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the figures.

45-51 Orpheus was the greatest pagan musician, whose music was so beautiful that the trees uprooted and followed him. He went to the underworld to bring his wife back from the dead. Commanded not to look back at her, he did so anyway, so she was not able to return to life. St. Cecilia's music was superior to Orpheus' because her piety brought the angels down from heaven. Her music sounded so much like the music of the spheres.

Coda: The closing Grand Chorus repeats that the world was begun with music and adds that music will accompany the end of the world.



The Well, a new addition to the church is the first thing you will see upon entering the church.

Saint Cecilia's Church
located on 106th Street
between Lexington and
Park Avenues.



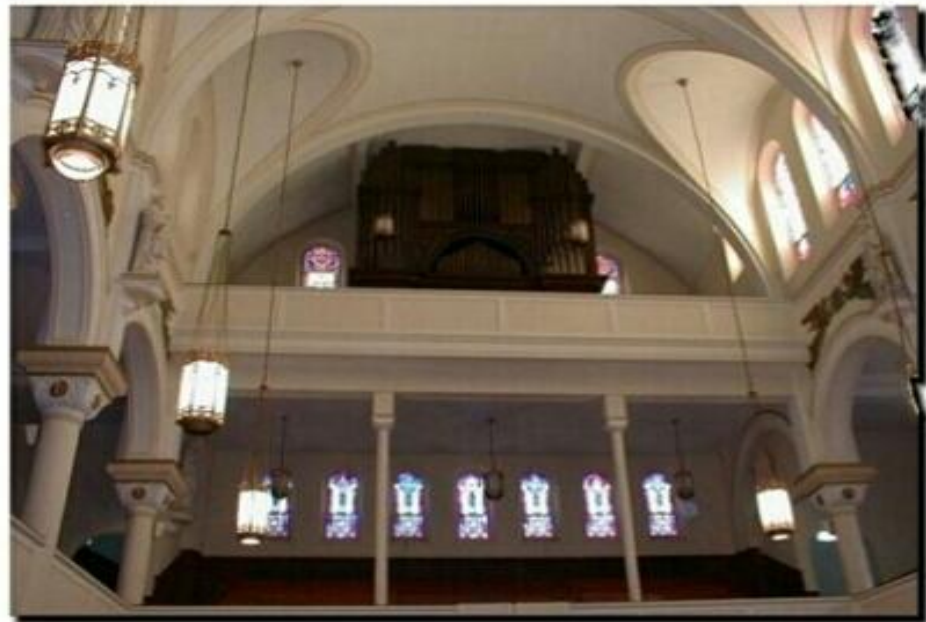


**A vertical panorama
reveals the beauty that
is the Saint Cecilia's
alter area**



**Here is the beautiful view of
the alter you will encounter
upon entering St. Cecilia's
Church.**

The stain glass of the Resurrection of Jesus faces the East Wall of the church.



The organ at Saint Cecilia's has not been in use for a while.

It is as high above the church as it is beautiful.