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**Philologisch-Kulturwissen-  
schaftliche Fakultät**

Institut für Musikwissenschaft  
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 9  
A-1010 Wien

**Bonnie J. Blackburn, FBA**  
(Faculty of Music, Oxford University):

**Myself when Young:  
Becoming a Musician in Renaissance Italy**

Gastvortrag

**am Mittwoch, 26. März 2014, um 18:15 Uhr**  
Hörsaal 1, Institut für Musikwissenschaft

If we look at the music profession today, we see a wide range of possibilities, from busking on the street, to playing in an orchestra, to achieving fame as a soloist, classical or pop. What was it like in earlier times? Was it a smart career move to become a musician in the Renaissance? Could one make a decent living? Acquire fame? There were many career paths open to budding musicians, in town bands, churches and cathedrals, and princely courts, in which a splendid chapel was a matter of statecraft and keen competition. Trained as a chorister, a boy might well advance to become a professional singer, an organist, a lutenist, a music theorist, or a composer. But music is also a social activity, and gentlemen took delight in performing in company—cautiously, for fear of losing their status. It was even more problematic for women, for whom it was indecorous to perform in public. A surprising number of well-known noblemen, scholars, and artists were talented at music when they were young, but chose to pursue different careers. Musical talent was valued and nurtured, but for non-professionals was only one of many things they could do well: who would have imagined, for example, that Niccolò Macchiavelli was a talented improviser, or that Sebastiano del Piombo could have become a professional musician? The lecture will be illustrated by music examples.

**HERZLICHE EINLADUNG!**

Birgit Lodes  
(Organisation)

Matthias Meyer  
(Dekan)