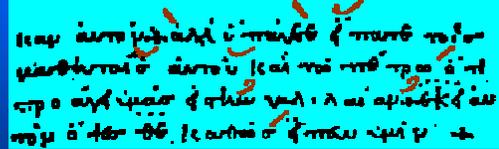


CHANT

an astonishing collection of melodies
a vast body of work reflecting individual composition, communal refinement, and collective memory

CHANT



Mark, Ch 16. c. 900

ORIGINS OF CHANT

We do not know when it was first sung, how it was first composed, where or by whom.
(Pope Gregory I (d. 604) was not the composer!)

Three periods of evolution

- 'Gregorian' strictly speaking c. 700-850
some 500-600 pieces established
- Carolingian 850-1000
- Medieval 1000-1300

All of it commonly called: **chant, Gregorian chant, plainchant, plainsong**
now a collection of some 3,000 pieces

Listening(!) example 1

Gregorian chant – Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, you are blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

RESERVE CD TRACK 1

CHANT

MUSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **REPETITION?** usually **NO**
- **TEMPO?** well . . . **DEBATABLE**
- **METER?** **NO**
- **TEXTURE?** **MONOPHONIC**

CHANT

MELODIC CHARACTERISTICS

- **REPETITION?** subtle, small-scale
- **CONTOUR & MOTION?** **CONJUNCT & SMOOTH**
- **RANGE?** **NARROW** (*narrow ambitus*)

CHANT

NEW MELODIC TERMS

- **MELISMA** – multiple notes per syllable of text (adj. melismatic)
- **SYLLABIC TEXT SETTING** – one note per syllable

“mel” is Latin root for “honey”

Listening example for melisma

Kyrie ----- elison

(reserve CD track 2)

CHANT

PERFORMANCE CONTEXT

- **SUNG BY? MEN AND WOMEN BUT NOT TOGETHER**
- **PERFORMED EVERY DAY**
IN TAVERNS? **NO**
ON THE STREET? **NO**
AT COURT? **NO**
IN MONASTERIES AND CONVENTS? **YES**

CHANT

PERFORMANCE CONTEXT

- **SUNG WHEN? DAILY**
- **HOW OFTEN? TO OBSERVE THE HOURS**

THE HOURS (approximately)

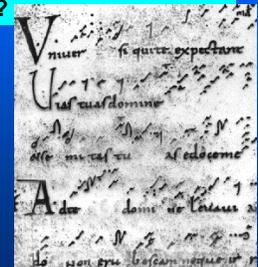
Matins (3 Nocturnes) – during the night
Lauds – at cockcrow (73 a.m.?)
Prime – 6 a.m.
Terce – 9 a.m.
MASS – 10 a.m.
Sext – noon
None – 3 p.m.
Vespers – 6 p.m.
Compline – at nightfall



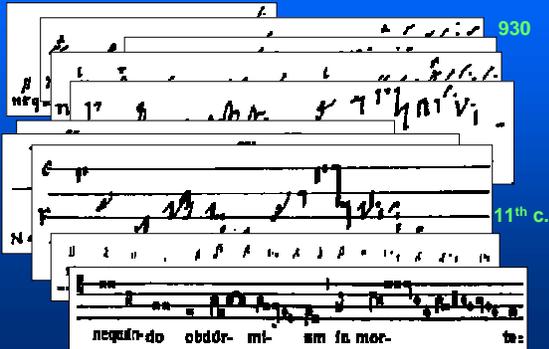
NEUMES

In the beginning was the word, but how do I remember all those tunes?

Neumes – notational signs for single tones and groups of notes; about 20 symbols used



from NEUMES to NOTES (almost)



NEUMES



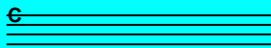
notate CONTOUR, INTERVAL and, with a staff and clef, PITCH, suggestions for duration

BUT RHYTHM comes later



GUIDO d' AREZZO

Around 1000, defines THE STAFF



and adds new names for the 6 notes
ut re mi fa sol la

Part of the Culture of the Book

IN NATIVITATE DOMINI. Ad Primam Missam in nocte. Introitus.



1615 edition



Initial A

Part of the Culture of the Book



TROPES

TROPE – the addition of words to extended melismas to aid in memory; melismas become syllabic

→ Great example of Medieval mindset, layering text upon text – the Culture of the Book.

A TROPED PIECE

Example:
Kyrie from An English Ladymass sung by Anonymous 4
(not on reserve or textbook CD)

O gracious mistress of the singing people, who bears Christ, have mercy.
Flowering vase, fashioner of him who governs, have mercy. You who cleanse us of our sins as a healer does, have mercy.

Kyria christifera
plebis modulantis,
eley[son].
Aulula florigera,
plasmata regentis,
eley[son].
Nostra luens scelera,
[tu] more medentis,
eley[son].

Original text in **bold**; added text is blue

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

1098-1179

Abbess, scholar, visionary, poet, musician, healer, spiritual leader

One of the earliest "named" composers in the European tradition



LISTENING EXAMPLE

Hildegard of Bingen, *Columba aspexit*, c.1150

- large intervals
- large or wide range (large ambitus)
- this is NOT Gregorian chant
- performed with a drone in this realization

* Know this Hildegard example on the RESERVE CD for the exam

While we listen, some of Hildegard's illuminations of her visions



9 rings of angels

While we listen, some of Hildegard's illuminations of her visions



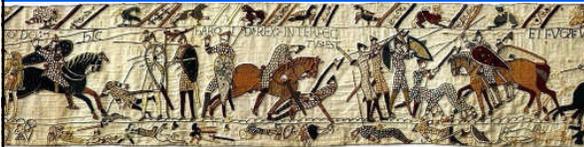
giving birth

EARLY MEDIEVAL SUMMARY 800-1150

- **POLITICS & SOCIETY** – Charlemagne, Ottonian (German) emperors; **FEUDALISM**
- **ARCHITECTURE** – Romanesque Style
- **ART** – relief sculpture and a fantastic approach to human form
- **IDEAS** – The Culture of the Book; monasteries
- **MUSIC** – consolidation of chant; early notation neumes & staff (staff c.1000)

LISTEN THREE TIMES

Bayeux Tapestry c. 1088



Battle of Hastings
1066
FEUDALISM



New Anchor Dates

1000

- Musical **STAFF** used for
- **CHANT** in the
- **EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD** in
- **MONASTERIES**

1066

- **BATTLE OF HASTINGS** depicted in the
- **BAYEUX TAPESTRY** which we associate with
- **FEUDALISM**



Up to dates?

480 BC

Start of **CLASSICAL GREEK PERIOD**

0

Just after the start of the **ROMAN EMPIRE**; Caesar Augustus reigns

547

SAN VITALE; sort of end of Early Christian period

c.1000

Guido describes the **MUSICAL STAFF**