



Lesson 2 Medieval Period 2020

March 21st, 2020

Holy empire and Church domination
Gregorian chants
Feudal system
Chivalry, Courtly love
Novel class
"Tristan und Isolde",
Richard Wargner
...

Medieval period (500-1450 A.D) :Many Wars

Western history

- Early Medieval Period
- Mid Medieval Period
- Late Medieval Period

The medieval period lasted from approximately 500-1450 A.D. It was a time of heavy church influence. During the medieval period, the Gregorian chants were created by the church.



Holly empire and Gregorian

Charlemagne of the Holy Roman Empire became the first Holy Roman Emperor around **800 AC**. He resurrected the concept of a king's divine right to rule. In this line, he was an ally of the Church. He attached importance to music in worship.

He used his authority to enforce the wishes of the Church. His legislation regarding the liturgy, was conformity with Rome.

The Frankish emperor Charlemagne took an intense interest in **church music**, and its propagation. He laid the foundations for the subsequent musical culture of the region. The emperor's agents and representatives were everywhere ordered to watch over the faithful carrying out of his orders regarding music.



Roman empire as the origin of Holy empire

The Holy empire of Charlemagne, its roots go back to the 5th century fall of Rome.

Roman empire



◆ 27 BC – 476/1453 AD (conventional dates)

◆ 395 - 480 ([Western](#))

◆ 395 – 1453 ([Eastern](#))

Eastern Europe is a cultural entity: the region lying in Europe with the main characteristics consisting of Greek, Byzantine, Eastern Orthodox, Russian, and some Ottoman cultural influences. (just one of the definitions)

The Byzantine Empire and invention of organ, violin



Late 4th century AD "Mosaic of the Musicians" with organ, aulos, and lyre from a Byzantine villa in Syria

Byzantine music is closely related to the ancient Greek system.

the organ, originated in the Hellenistic world (see [Hydraulis](#)) A pipe organ with "great leaden pipes" was sent by the emperor Constantine V to Pepin the Short, King of the Franks in 757

the early bowed stringed instrument known as the Byzantine lyra, would come to be called the *lira da braccio*, in Venice, where it is considered by many to have been the predecessor of the contemporary violin.



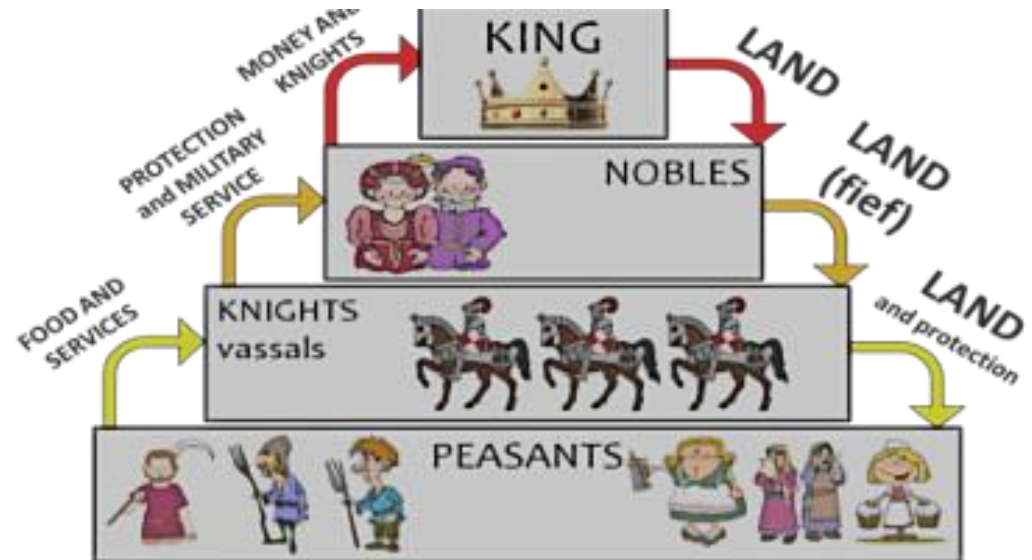
Medieval period and Music

- Plainchant = Gregorian chant
- Shift from Monophony to polyphony
- Organum music
- Sacred and Secular
- Minstrels
- Notre Dame school
- Burgundian school



Social structure

- Feudal system
- Chivalry virtue
- Courtly love
- Novel class



Plain chants to polyphony

Gregorian chant is the central tradition of Western plainchant, a form of monophonic, unaccompanied sacred song in Latin (and occasionally Greek) of the Roman Catholic Church. Gregorian chant developed mainly in western and central Europe during the 9th and 10th centuries. Chanting of this time period is called plainchant. Monks would sing the prayers together in unison.

Notre-Dame school (12-13th)

- **Notre-Dame school of polyphony** refers to the group of composers working at or near the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris from about 1160 to 1250, along with the music they produced.
- The composers whose names have come down to us from this time are [Léonin](#) and [Pérotin](#).



Franco-Flemish School, called **Netherlandish School** 15th and 16th

The **Franco-Flemish School**, called **Netherlandish School**, **Burgundian School**, refers, to the style of polyphonic vocal music composition originating from the Burgundian Netherlands in the 15th and 16th. The spread of their technique, especially after the revolutionary development of printing, produced the first true international style since the unification of Gregorian chant in the 9th century. Franco-Flemish composers mainly wrote sacred music, primarily masses, motets, and hymns.

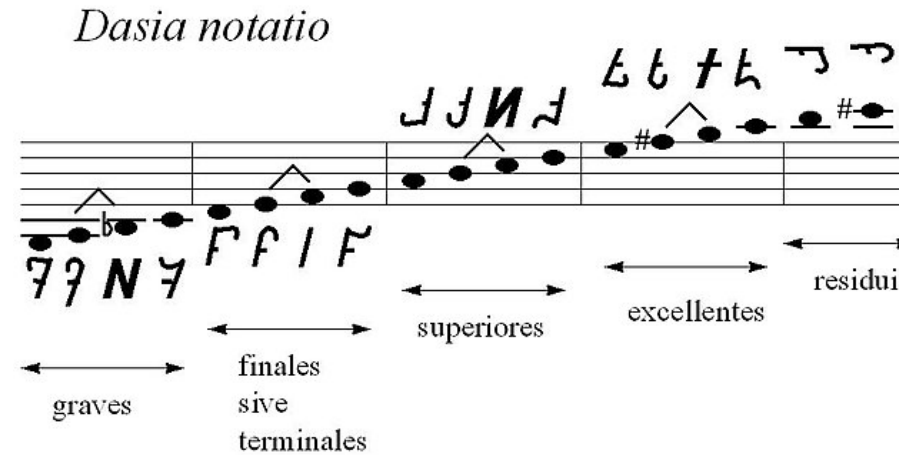
ORGANUM (of the Middle Ages)

polyphony

Organum is, in general, a plainchant melody with at least one added voice to enhance the harmony, developed in the Middle Ages.

Musica enchiriadis is a musical treatise of the 9th century. It is the first attempt to set up a system of rules for polyphony in western art music.

The notation used in *Musica enchiriadis*. The scale comprises four tetrachords. The symbols indicating the notes are rotated and mirrored depending on the tetrachords. A modern transcription of the notes is below.



Musica et scolica enchiriadis (c:a 900)



Medieval to Renaissance

Burgundian school,

dominant musical style of Europe during most of the 15th century, under the prosperous and powerful dukes of Burgundy, whose interest was in the education and enlightenment. Burgundy became a center of musical creativity. Charles the Bold (1467–1477), maintained large chapels of musicians.

Guillaume Dufay was associated with the ducal court at Dijon as a musician and chaplain.

During the reign of the House of Valois, Burgundy was the most powerful and stable political division in western Europe, Flanders, Brabant, Holland, Luxembourg, Alsace and Lorraine. This entire area, loosely known as Burgundy

The main names associated with this school are **Guillaume Dufay, Gilles Binchois, and Antoine Busnois.**

While **Guillaume de Machaut** is often considered to be one of the last Medieval composers, Dufay is often considered to be the first significant Renaissance composer.



Dufay and Binshois



Burgundian cadences

Gothic architecture (or **pointed architecture**) is an architectural style that flourished in Europe during the High and Late Middle Ages.^[1] It evolved from Romanesque architecture and was succeeded by Renaissance architecture.



High Gothic flying buttresses
Metz Cathedral

Romanesque architecture is an architectural style of medieval Europe characterized by semi-circular arches.



The **First Crusade** (1096–1099) was the first of a number of religious wars initiated, supported and sometimes directed by the Latin Church in the medieval period. The initial objective was the recovery of the Holy Land from Islamic rule.



Examples of the medieval music

Gregorian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdroyjKs1Ls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6elmoFxBsl>

Leonin organum

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=leoninus+organum

Leonin Pascha Nostrum Organum Duplum

Partitura Interpretación

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngCRm7uLirA>

Pérotin

The title *Magister Perotinus* means that he was licensed to teach.



In "De Musica", Boethius, and philosopher of the early 6th century, introduced the threefold classification of music:

- *Musica mundana* – music of the spheres/world; this "music" was to be understood rather than heard
- *Musica humana* – harmony of human body and spiritual harmony
- *Musica instrumentalis* – instrumental music. Music produced by something under tension (e.g., strings), by wind (e.g., aulos), by water, or by percussion

In the medieval period, Musica mudana (宇宙音楽) was emphasized. In the Renaissance period, Musica humana became more important.

Chivalry or Chivalry code

- The term “chivalry” derives from the Old French term *chevalerie*. Its meaning in Europe has been refined to emphasize general social and moral virtues.
- The code of chivalry, was a moral system which combined a warrior ethos, knightly piety, and courtly manners, all conspiring to establish a notion of honor and nobility.



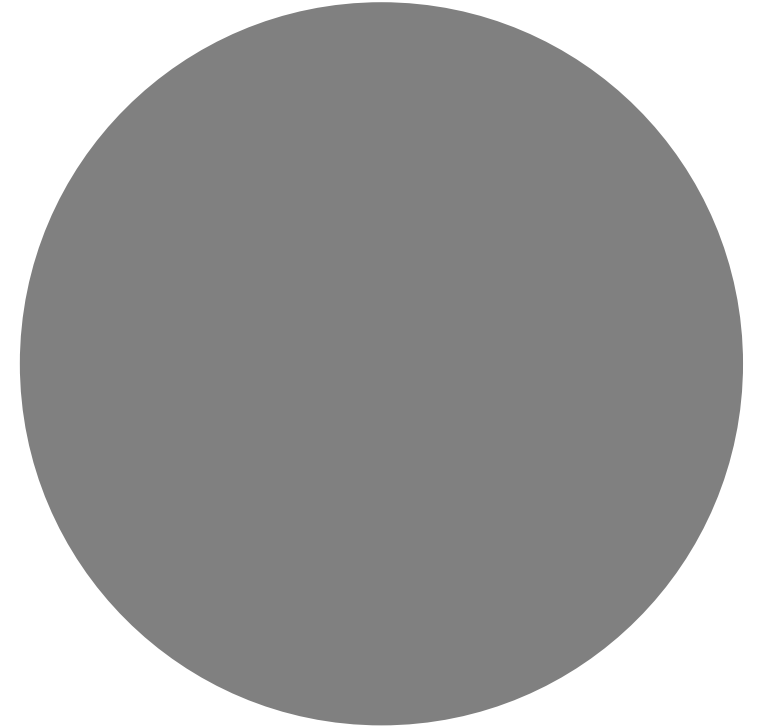
Music pieces extracted from Medieval period

Tristan and Iseult is a romance story, retold in numerous sources with as many variations since the 12th century. The story is a tragedy about the adulterous love between the Cornish knight Tristan (Tristram, etc.) and the Irish princess Iseult (Isolde, Yseult, etc.). The narrative predates and influenced the Arthurian romance of Lancelot and Guinevere. It has had a substantial impact on Western art and literature. While the details of the story differ from one author to another, the overall plot structure remains much the same.

- Richard Wagner - "Tristan und Isolde", Prelude
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-qoaioG2UA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQO7QIgNvA0>
- Richard Wagner - Lohengrin – Prelude
- Lohengrin is a romantic opera, first performed in 1850. The story is taken from medieval German romance,
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqk4bcnBqls>



References from Study.com



<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-medieval-music-history-church-music-composers.html>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/medieval-church-music-gregorian-chant-plainchant.html#/lesson>