

## **MUSIC OF THE MIDDLE AGES**

This is not a comprehensive list of everything you should know about music in the Middle Ages, and is not a list of questions that you must memorize for an exam. Instead, it's a list of terms (concepts, events, people, places, etc.) you should be familiar with in order to analyze scores and sound recordings, to outline a chronology of basic historical and musical developments in the Middle Ages, and discuss the relationship between music and culture in the Middle Ages and the relevance of that music and ideas in present-day culture.

### **Important Historical Events**

- 475: Fall of the Roman Empire: the last Roman emperor in the West is overthrown
- 800: Charlemagne, having conquered a vast territory in continental Europe is crowned as Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1095: Pope Urban II launches the first crusades. These military campaigns continue throughout the Middle Ages.
- Late 11<sup>th</sup> Century: the first universities are founded (1088, University of Bologna, 1096, Oxford University, etc...)
- 1337-1453: Series of wars and conflicts mostly between the kingdoms of France and England known as The Hundred Years War.
- 1346-1353: The Black Death kills somewhere between 1/3 and 1/2 of the population of Europe.
- 1378-1418: The Great Schism: the Roman Catholic Church splits in two, part of Europe follows the pope in Rome while another part follows the pope in Avignon.

What impact did these events have in the development of music and culture in the Middle Ages? Conversely, what impact did music have in these historical events and culture?

### **Music Theory, Aesthetics, and Philosophy in the Middle Ages:**

- Music as a science
  - Influence of Ancient Greek music theory
  - Music and the liberal arts (Trivium and Quadrivium)
  - Boethius and three types of music.
- Musical transmission and pedagogy
  - Neumatic notation
  - Solesmes chant notation
  - Manuscript illumination and glossing
  - Franconian notation

- Guidonian hand
- Solfege
- Melodic modes (numbers or names)
- Rhythmic modes
- Mensuration
- Musica ficta
- Important musical texts and treatises
  - Liber Usualis (compiled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Musica Enchiriadis (9<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Ad organum faciendum (12<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Magnus liber organi (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries)
  - Cantigas de Santa Maria (13<sup>th</sup> century, 1221-1284)
  - Ars nova notandi (1322)

### **Musical Genres and Styles:**

- Chant
  - Chant dialects
  - Gregorian chant
    - Syllabic
    - Neumatic
    - Melismatic
- Catholic Liturgies (worship services)
  - The Mass:
    - Ordinary
    - Proper
  - The Offices (Divine Hours)
- Styles of Organum
  - Early (parallel) organum
  - Florid organum
  - Organum duplum
  - Organum quadruplum
- Liturgical dramas
- Tropes
- Clausulae
- Cantigas
- Motets
- Troubadours/Trouveres songs
- Estampie
- Formes fixes
  - Virelais
  - Rondeau
  - Ballade
- English Polyphony
- Mass cycle
- Fourteenth-century motets

- Isorhythm
- Polytextuality

### **Important People and Places**

- People:
  - Boethius
  - Charlemagne
  - Gregory the Great
  - Guido D'Arezzo
  - Leonin and Perotin
  - Hildegard of Bingen
  - Franco of Cologne
  - Philippe de Vitry
  - Francesco Landini
  - Guillaume de Machaut
  - Baude Cordier
- Places:
  - Rome
  - Notre Dame Cathedral
  - Galicia
  - Avignon
  - The British Isles
  - Italy (in the 1300s)