

Medieval Notes

- Monophonic:** A single melody without melodic or harmonic support, regardless of number of players
- Polyphonic:** Music of many parts (melodies), where melodic interest is spread through all the parts.
- Homophonic:** 1) Music in a "chordal" style (a chorale)
2) Music in which a single melody is supported by an accompaniment in a chordal or slightly more elaborate style.
- Hemiola:** A cross-rhythm, for example three half notes in a row in three-four time
- Syncopation:** A silence or weak beat replaces the expected strong beat.
- Phrygian Cadence:** A special half cadence, used only in minor keys: $iv_6 - V$
- Syllabic:** One syllable for each note
- Melismatic:** Many notes for a syllable
- A Cappella:** Music that is vocal or choral but without instrumental accompaniment
- Cantus Firmus:** a borrowed melody, originally from Gregorian chant, used as the slow-moving basis for a new work in which upper, faster-moving melodies are set in counterpoint against it, particularly common during the period from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries
- Gregorian Chant:** Believed to have been codified in the 6th Century by Pope Gregory I. Gregorian (or "Plain") Chant is monophonic, or made up of a single melody (often with many performers), often of step-wise construction and having a

narrow tessitura (range). It is performed in a free-rhythmic manner, and there is no sense of pulse or meter. It has a Latin text.

Isorhythm:

A technique for musical organization, where repeated rhythmic patterns (called the talea), usually occurring in the tenor line, are set against a pattern of notes or pitches (called the 'color') - the talea and color may be different in length

Organum:

Initially two melodic lines performed simultaneously at parallel intervals. Eventually this evolved into a two or three part work where the chant melody (called "tenor") was held while the other parts wove and embellished the resulting drone.

Instruments:

Visit this site for descriptions of instruments and recordings of how they sound:

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/antiqua/instrum.html>

Ordinary of the Mass: The portions of the Catholic Mass that do not change. It is made up of the "Kyrie Eleison," the "Gloria," the "Credo," the "Sanctus," and the "Agnus Dei." It was first set to music by Machaut

Composers:

- Early
 - Gregorian Chant
- Mid
 - Léonin (2 parts - mostly)
 - Perotin (3 or more parts - mostly)
- Late
 - Machaut (Messe de Notre Dame)
 - Dufay