

2012-09-17

consonance, dissonance, arpeggio, chords, legato, staccato, major scale, minor scale, chromatic scale, Key signatures: sharp, flat

- Monophonic = one melody alone
- Homophonic = one melody with chords
- Polyphonic = two or more melodies together - of equal importance
- Texture = the way melody and chords are woven together
- Middle Ages (450-1450)
  - 1. Dark Ages = disintegration of Roman Empire; migration, wars.
  - 2. Later Middle Ages = cultural growth, gothic cathedrals, monasteries, towns grew
  - 3. three main social classes:
    - Nobility = castles with moats, knights in armor, hunting, feasting, war, illiterate
    - Peasants: belong to feudal lords, terrible living conditions, illiterate
    - Clergy R.C.: powerful R.C. church, hell = real, monks and priests controlled learning
- M.A. music = two categories:
  - sacred (religious)
  - secular (everything else)
- Cathedrals = center of music life; musicians were priests and monks who worked for R.C. church, singing was their occupation, boys received music education. Women not allowed to sing in church. For centuries, only sacred music was written down by hand. Women could sing in Convents.
- Sacred music was all vocal. R.C. church not want instruments at 11th century organ used, at first loud and primitive; later was better and used for polyphonic music. Composers wanted instruments and priests did not.
- Gregorian Chant or Plain Chant = melody with Latin words (monophonic) - flexible rhythm, no time signature, no regular beats; organized by Pope Gregory (590-604) - passed down by tradition, then written. (Chant melodies came from Hebrew Chants and words changed to Latin.)
- Mass Ordinary = works never change: 5 parts = Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, Agnus Dei (Mass Proper = changes daily)
- Next time = read Renaissance = pages 93-114