

2012-09-19

- Middle Ages (450-1450)
 - Social classes
 - rich
 - poor
 - religious
 - Music
 - sacred (audience: God)
 - secular (kings, courts, town squares)
 - Gothic cathedrals
 - Priests and Monks = singing in church - not written down for centuries; boys got music education; women not sing except in convents
 - Sacred music = vocal; no instruments allowed by Roman Catholic church until 11th century = organ - loud and primitive at beginning; later used for polyphonic music
 - Gregorian chant (plain chant) = monophonic music with Latin text; no time signature, no definite rhythm, passed down by tradition. Pope Gregory (590-604) organized chants
 - Secular Music (120-130) = different than sacred
 - more rhythm and beat
 - regular phrases
 - not as "modal" = harmonized and accompaniment
 - styles subject different in each motion; in vernacular (language of the country).
 - French Troubadours = nobles, poets, musicians: love songs, dance songs, clear, definitive beat.
 - Wandering Minstrels = music and acrobats in castles, town squares. Lowest social class. "News of the day"
 - Organum (900-1200) = beginning of polyphony - Gregorian chant with one or more added lines = at 4th or 5th = parallel motion (all voices going in same motion); later = contrary motion (one goes up, the other goes down, and vice-versa)
 - Cantus Firmus = fixed melody: basic chant line with composer put line above it
 - Drone = one continuous note (with other lines above)
 - no records left of 90% of population and music
- Middle Ages - inventions
 - 6c - heavy wheeled plow; millions of acres of European forests cultivated - more food
 - 8c - save, oceangoing ships; Vikings came from Scandinavia and changed racial, cultural, linguistic makeup of Europe

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- 10c - stirrup = soldiers fight from horseback
- 12c - spinning wheel, wheelbarrow, mechanical clock
- 13c - compass, windmill, eyeglasses
- 14c - plate armor, gunpowder
- (Cathedrals: stone-cutting - one error)

Reading for Monday, September 24: Renaissance, pages 93-112