

THE MIDDLE AGES (from the 10th century until the Renaissance, which started around the 15th century)

1. GREGORIAN CHANT (music concerning with devotion to God)

- THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS.

Around 100 **A.D** early Christians began practicing a form of **chanting** adapted from their Jewish heritage. It was named as **PLAINCHANT**. The melody was bare, unadorned, pure and **unaccompanied**. The Church disapproved of any other form of music and **Plainchant** was the only music in the **Church**. The words were very important during **Mass** because they had to make the listener to receive the **holy thoughts**, so instrumental music was prohibited. Also, every voice was singing exactly the same melody at the same time. So, its texture is **monophonic**. It's a meditative music. For this reason, at present this music is very popular as **chill-out** music. Most chants were **anonymous**, or at least only scholars know who wrote them. They belonged to Church.

- POPE GREGORY THE GREAT.(ca. 540-604)

Around the year 600, **Pope** Gregory the Great, attempted to organize the various chants that had spread through **Christendom**. He was the main responsible to collect and organize the different chants in use at that time. This **compilation** was known as **Gregorian Chant**. He also founded the first singing School for the training of Church musicians.

- MUSIC NOTATION and GUIDO D`AREZZO

At first no precise notation was used for plainchant. Symbols called **neumas** were invented to indicate the rise or fall in pitch. These symbols, located above the text, didn't have exact length or duration, so the conductor decided how long a sound had to last. In the 11th century, a **monk** called **Guido of Arezzo** created a system of lines and symbols which showed the exact pitch of the sound. He gave a different name to each pitch.

1. SECULAR OR NO RELIGIOUS MUSIC(music outside the Church)

The music outside the Church was made by **troubadours**, who usually belong to **upper-class** and were attached to courts, where they composed songs and dances for the **amusement** of the upper-classes. They also performed their music, playing instruments and singing. So, their music wasn't a capella. That kind of music had a clearer rhythm than religious music, because sometimes people used it to dance. They used the **vernacular language**, and the main topic was the love.

Other people who belonged to **lower class** called Goliards, **Jongleurs** and Minstrels **wandered** all over Europe. They didn't compose the songs, but they sang, danced, played instruments and even they portrayed as a **jester** or a joker.

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

1. AD (after Death)
2. BC(before Christ)
3. Chanting(canto)
4. Christians (cristianos)
5. Unaccompanied melody
6. Plainchant (canto llano)
7. Church (la Iglesia)
8. Mass (misa)
9. Holy scripture (sagradas escrituras)
10. Monophonic texture.
11. Chill-out (relajante)
12. Anonymous.
13. Pope (papa)
14. Christendom (cristiandad)
15. Compilation (compilación)
16. Neumas (neumas)
17. Monk (monje)
18. Troubadour (trovadores)
19. Upper class (clase alta o aristocrática)
20. Amusement (entretenimiento)
21. Vernacular (mother tongue)
22. Lower class (clases bajas)
23. Jongleur (jugar-malabarista)
24. Minstrels (misnistriles)
25. Wander (deambular de un sitio a otro)
26. Jester (bufón)
27. Handwriting(escritura a mano)
28. Chivalrous
29. music notation.