

# Medieval Music



*The “Dark Ages...”*

# Western Music

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❖ Music of Europe and the Americas

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Music of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

# *The Dark Ages...*

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- ❖ Some say it lasted from ~500 AD to 1400...almost 1,000 years
- ❖ After the collapse of the Roman Empire in the 5th century AD, Western Europe entered a time known as "The Dark Ages" — a period when invading hordes of Vandals and Huns overran Europe. These years were marked by constant warfare, the absence of a Holy Roman Emperor, and the virtual disappearance of urban life. Over the next next nine centuries, **the newly emerging Christian Church came to dominate Europe, administering justice, instigating "Holy" Crusades against the East, establishing Universities, and generally dictating the destiny of music, art, and literature. Superstition was very real and present in art, music and architecture...**

# *The Dark Ages...*

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# Sacred Music

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- ❖ **Sacred** =religious
- ❖ The only music approved by the Catholic church at that time was “plainchant,” kind of like “speak singing” using very few tones
- ❖ Chant was **monophonic**=one melody line, no harmony
- ❖ **Gregorian Chant**=Chant songs collected by **Pope Gregory I** ; chant is centered around one main tone

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- ❖ Chant was \_\_\_\_\_ = one melody line, no harmony
- ❖ **Gregorian Chant** = Chant songs collected by \_\_\_\_\_; chant is centered around \_\_\_\_\_

# Church Music, con't

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- ❖ **Organum**=First kind of vocal **harmony**
- ❖ Two chants combined (like countermelodies...)



# Church Music, con't

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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_=First kind of vocal **harmony**
- ❖ Two chants combined (like \_\_\_\_\_...)

# Secular Music

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- ❖ **Secular** = non-religious
- ❖ **Troubadors** were “storytellers” who traveled and sang (also known as “**minstrels**”)
- ❖ They played “portable” instruments such as the **lute** (like an early guitar) and various recorder-type instruments (**recorder**, shawm and krumhorn)

# Secular Music

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- ❖ **Secular** = \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ were “storytellers” who traveled and sang (also known as “\_\_\_\_\_”)
- ❖ They played “portable” instruments such as the \_\_\_\_\_ (like an early guitar) and various woodwind-type instruments (\_\_\_\_\_, shawm and krumhorn)

# Don't confuse these two words...

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- ❖ **Melismatic:** Many notes to one syllable or word  
(Think of “Glo - - - - -ri-a, in excelsis De—  
o...”)
- ❖ “mel-is-maaa---a---a----a---a---a----a---tic”
- ❖ **Monophonic**--a single melody line (no harmony)
  - ❖ *mono*=one      *phonic*=speech sound

# Don't confuse these two words...

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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_: Many notes to one syllable or word
  - ❖ “mel-is-maaa---a---a----a---a---a---a----a---tic”
- ❖ Not to be confused with \_\_\_\_\_—a single melody line (no harmony)
  - ❖ *mono*=one      *phonic*=speech sound

# Early reed instruments...

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❖ The shawm and krumphorn

# Instruments that travel...

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- ❖ Remember, most Medieval instruments were **portable** ...

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- ❖ Remember, most Medieval instruments were \_\_\_\_\_ ...