In the early days, music came to life in three main parts of the world: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece. In Mesopotamia, people mostly sang, but they also invented some of the first instruments like the lyre, harp, and flute. Their music was deeply tied to the cosmos - they thought of it as a kind of science, and mostly played it during royal and religious ceremonies. It was here in Mesopotamia where they started studying the spaces between sounds - what we call intervals. They connected these intervals with perfect proportions found in the universe and nature. This way of seeing music as a calculation-based science stayed around until the late Middle Ages.

Over in Egypt, they started making music that wasn't just for religious rituals, so secular music was born. That's why we find more instruments from there, like the sistrum (a type of rattle), the Pan flute, harp, lyre, lute, and trumpet. Here, women were also allowed to make music.

But the real game-changer for European culture was Ancient Greece. Music in Greece was a little different from what we're used to today. It was always combined with dance and poetry to make a kind of mash-up genre.

Music was super important for the Greeks - you can tell because it pops up a lot in their mythology, with many myths telling tales about music, instruments, and how they were discovered. Music was everywhere in Greece, in both serious and fun situations. It was played during major national ceremonies, during many processions and festivals where they would sing songs of praise to the gods, and even during the Olympic Games. They also had their own music competition during the Pythian Games in Delphi where contestants sang with or played the kithara (a type of lyre) and the aulos (a type of flute).

Music was also a big part of Greek drama. A soloist and a chorus singing dialogue was the main feature of ancient theater. Since music was seen as a mathematical science, the Greek philosopher Pythagoras played a big part in developing it. He measured the spaces between sounds on a one-string instrument (the monochord), showing that they were a reflection of the harmony of the universe. In Ancient Greece, they also created the first musical scales that were used all the way up until the Baroque period, and they invented the first system of musical notation.

The Greeks had a cool collection of instruments, including the cithara, lyre, harp, psaltery, trumpet, horn, aulos, Pan flute, and the syrinx.