Transcript

A two note neum is a neum that sets a single syllable of text with a two-note figure.

QUIZ: Think about it for a moment. How many possibilities are there for two-note neums.

There are only two possibilities for these neums: the Podatus or Pes, and the Clivis.

The Podatus.
The Podatus looks like this. It is sometimes described as looking like a foot, which is why it is also called a Pes, the Latin term meaning "foot." If you can imagine a monk drawing a podatus, you can see him drawing first a downward stroke to indicate a lower note, and then an upward stroke to indicate a higher note.

Here is what the podatus looks like in an ancient manuscript. In this short excerpt, there are actually two: one here, and one here.

(singing) *In salutári tuo…*

Its modern equivalent is two square notes in ascending order. Now, as we have seen earlier, the notation is not pitch specific, so the interval between the two notes can vary, and the modern equivalent can look like what you see on the screen now, or it could look like this, or this, or, technically, any interval.

The Clivis
The clivis looks like this. Again, if you can imagine a monk drawing a clivis, you can see him drawing first an upward stroke to indicate a higher note, and then a downward stroke to indicate a lower note.

Here is an example from the same manuscript we saw a moment ago. The clivis is here. Notice that is has the letter "c" above it, for "celeriter," or quickly. The scribe likely did not want too much attention given to this pretonic syllable with its

two notes as compared to the following tonic syllable with only one note, indicated by a virga.

(singing) *In salutári tuo…*

The modern equivalent for the clivis is two square notes in descending order. Also, since the notation is not pitch specific, the interval between the two notes can vary, and the modern equivalent can look like what you see on the screen now, or it could look like this, or this, or, technically, any interval.