

## Laon Level 1 Group 3-1

### Two-note Neums – Explanation

#### 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 this first stroke to indicate a lower note, and then an upward stroke to indicate a higher note.

Its modern equivalent is two square notes in ascending order. Now, 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.

Here is what the podatus looks like in an ancient manuscript.

This is a portion of the communion chant *Manducavérunt* from the manuscript Laon 239 and here is a modern transcription.

In this excerpt, there are actually two podati, one here, and one here, and here they are in the modern transcription.

Now, you might notice that in the modern transcription there are other neums that look like podati. For example, here are four. However, when we look at them in the manuscript, we see that they are notated a little differently. Each of these is an example of an altered podatus, which we will study a little later.

(singing) *Manducavérunt, et saturati sunt nimis et desidérium eórum áttulit....*

## **The Clivis**

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

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.

Here are two examples from the same manuscript we saw a moment ago. There is a clivis here, and one here, and here they in the modern transcription.

Also, in the modern transcription here is a neum that is similar to the clivis that we have just seen, but not identical. Here it is in the manuscript. It is an altered form of the clivis that we will study a little later.

(singing) *Manducavérunt, et saturati sunt nimis et desidérium eórum áttulit....*