

MUSC360 Music in Western Culture Before 1900: Music as a Public Art

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1 Christmas in Paris, ca. 1280

During this time, Paris was one of Europe's largest cities and was a cultural and educational center.

- University of Paris (provided liberal arts education for white collar jobs)
- Cathedral of Notre Dame

The university and cathedral grew together with the literature culture, promoting poetry and debate. In particular, music was everywhere in Paris, especially amongst the aristocrats and church.

1.1 Church Music

Church music was performed in 2 main settings

- **The Office**: set of services in church conducted by and for the clergy (no laymen allowed).
- **The Mass**: daily service in church performed by professionals for laymen. Works were performed in Latin and included
 - Spoken texts (e.g. readings and sermons)
 - Sung texts (e.g. prayers and psalmody) set to **Gregorian chant**

Chants in particular can be broken down into 2 types:

- **Action chants** that accompany actions and rituals
- **Lesson chants** performed after readings to foster reflection of learned material.

Mass texts can be broken down into 2 types:

- **Mass Ordinary**: texts performed every day
- **Mass Proper**: texts chosen according to the day of the liturgical calendar, usually from the **Book of Psalms** which has proper chants called **psalmody**.

Gregorian chants today are compiled in **Liber Usualis** and are notated using **square notation**.

1.2 Puer natus est nobis (“A child is born to us”)

First chant of Christmas Day Mass. It is an **Introit**, which is an action chant

It is proper and corresponding texts from Psalm 97 line 1 and the Book of Isaiah

Performed as an **Antiphonal psalmody** (performed by 2 halves of the choir in alternation)

- **monophonic** in texture (only 1 line sung in unison)
- Pitch organization: **mode 7** (final - G, reciting tone - D). Reciting tone is the note that is repeated a lot.
- Melody is constructed from
 - Chanting on reciting tone
 - **Melodic formulas** (melodic material shaped around punctuation and the grammar of the text).
- Rhythmic organization is unknown.

Structure consists of

- Antiphon (opening segment that is based on **neumatic** text and multiple notes are sung on 1 syllable)

- Verse (marked Ps. and based on **syllabic** text where multiple syllables are sung on one note)
- Lesser Doxology (short repeated text that is required in every chant that they do, in the same tune as the verse and is **syllabic**)
- Repeat of Antiphon (2nd choir marked by *)

1.3 Viderunt omnes (“All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God”)

Gradual (lesson chant performed after first reading)

It is proper and corresponding text from text from Psalm 97, lines 2-4 (continues from the Introit)

Responsorial psalmody: performed by a soloist alternating with a choir

- **monophonic** in texture.
- Pitch organization: **mode 5** (final - F, reciting tone - C)
- Melody constructed from
 - multiple long **melismas**
 - melodic formulas
- Structure:
 - Response (opening by soloist and rest by choir). Material is **melismatic** (ornate and dozens of notes per syllable)
 - Verse (marked V.) mostly soloist and choir enters at the end (entrance marked by *). Material is **melismatic**
- Usually played as a musical highpoint of mass

1.4 Types of Church Music

1.4.1 Chants

non-literate/unwritten traditions where singers reconstruct melodies in performance using melodic formulas, performance conventions, and rules of Latin grammar.

Important to note that this is neither memorized nor improvised.

Music notation was used for newly composed chant repertoire

- Sequences
- **Tropes**: textual or musical insertions into the body of the original chant and are usually sung by a solo voice. Used to elaborate on the theme of the day or explain something. Important to note that because this is adding to the original chant, tropes make the chant **proper**

1.4.2 Organum

Earliest type of **polyphony** that consists of a 2-part texture

- lower voice chant (**tenor**) sung by choir
- newly composed upper voice (**duplum**) sung by soloist

Typical organum practice during this time was **melismatic**

- slow, drone-like tenor

- fast, melismatic duplum

Magnus Liber Organi (“The Great Book of Organum”): collection of organum composed by **Master Leonin** and later revised by **Master Perotin**

- Above names were cited by **Anonymous IV**, a student (studied at **The School of Notre Dame**) from that era that named the composers and the works.

School of Notre-Dame brought a major innovation to music: **Rhythmic modes** system of rhythmic organization for organum for both composition and notation.

- notes are notated as either **long** or **breve**
- Rhythmic patterns are grouped into **perfections** (units of 3)

Leonin’s style, called **organum purum** (“pure organum”) comprised of

- slow tenor, in free rhythm
- fast duplum in rhythmic modes

Perotin’s style used **discants** (long melismas). In particular, when Perotin revised Magnus Liber, he replaced the organum purum with discants and composed new **discant clausulae** (“clauses”): long sections of discants that singers could substitute at will.

- fast tenor, in rhythmic modes
- fast duplum in rhythmic modes

1.5 Leonin’s and Perotin’s setting of *Viderunt omnes*

1.5.1 Leonin’s *Viderunt omnes*

Polyphony only seen in solo sections, choral sections are monophonic.

The polyphonic portions can be split into 2 voices (tenor and duplum) and use organum purum style

1.5.2 Perotin’s *Viderunt omnes*

Consists of 4 voices that layer on top of each other, starting with the tenor (lowest)

- tenor
- duplum
- triplum
- quadruplum

Sections alternate between organum purum and discant clausulae.

Upper voices share the same range and melodic ideas (**voice exchange**)

Vertical texture is a coincidence is a by product of the horizontal lines. Echo effect comes from the perfect consonances (4ths, 5ths, 8ves)

During this time, 3rds and 6ths were seen as dissonant and thus were more hidden in the texture. Instead, 2nds and 7ths were more consonant and more prevalent in them music.

1.6 Secular Music and Types of Secular Music

Secular music was mostly seen in royal courts, festivals, parties.

1.6.1 Estampie

Popular dance at the time.

- primary purpose of the music was to support the dancing so percussion instruments in particular were useful for counting steps.
- Monophonic tune was performed by an ensemble of loud instruments so that the music could be heard across the royal hall
- Structure consists of series of strains capped with open and then closed cadences

1.6.2 Trouvère song

Monophonic secular song. Historically:

- Before ca. 1250: was used exclusively as courtly love poetry and songs for royalty and aristocracy
- ca. 1250-1300: primary urban tradition of love poetry and songs where the royalty and **Puys** (brotherhood) sponsored performances

Genres include

- Chanson de geste – a narrative epic
- Chanson courtoise – a song of courtly love
- Chanson de toile – a “woman’s song” (aka “spinning song”)
- Pastourelle – a pastoral
- Jeu-parti – a “mock debate”

1.6.3 Motet

Most sophisticated “learned” secular genre that consists of 3 voices that are layered (tenor on bottom)

- Triplum (newly composed and based on French secular text)
- Duplum (newly composed and based on French secular text)
- Tenor (pre-existing untexted chant melisma)

Adam de la Halle (d. ca. 1307): notable poet and composer who represented the last generation of trouvères. Was famous for both the poetic and musical aspects of trouvères (also famous for his motets). Normally only the poet is recognized and composer is not recognized.

1.7 Jeu de Robin et Marion (“play with songs”)

Trouvère song written by Adam de la Halle with a plot focuses on love story between Robin Hood and Maid Marion in a poetic/musical style. Song is organized into **refrains** (repeated with modifications) that make up a **rondeau** (round dance song). In particular, the structure is ABaabAB where lower cases are the refrains.

1.8 De ma dame vient/Dieus, comment porroie/Omnes

3-voice **Franconian motet** written by Adam de la Halle:

- 4 types of note durations that are grouped into perfections
- **polytextual**: duplum and triplum are set to different poems (representing the female lover and male lover that perform simultaneously but out of sync). Setting to different poems were used for comical effects.

Tenor part, which serves as a **cantus firmus** in particular is the opening melisma omnes from Gradual Viderunt omnes

- untexted and usually performed by an instrument, rather than voice
- slower than the upper 2 voices

Music style feature linear polyphony and the upper voices share the same range, with an emphasis on perfect consonances and accidental instances of dissonance.

1.9 Emergence of Polyphony

Hard to trace exact origins of polyphony but evidence suggests that early polyphonic music focused on amplifying monophonic chant, rather than serve as individual compositions.

Earliest recount of simultaneous sounding consonances are found in writings of **Hucbald** and **Regino** in the 9th century. The first writing of unambiguous polyphonic singing is in **Musica enchiradis** from the early 10th century.

Examples of polyphonic execution

- Wales: instrument execution was fast and lively
- Britain: 2 part singing, 1 in a low register and the other singing something soothing to the ear at a higher range

Earliest polyphonic schools were centered around monasteries in France, England, Spain. It reached the School of Notre-Dame in the 12th/13th centuries and musicians from Paris were the first to notate both pitch and rhythm. **Anonymus IV** in his notes recounts several important figures during this time period. Most notable were

- **Master Leonius** known as best composer of organum
- **Master Perotin** best of composer of discant and introduced form of 4 voice writing (explained in previous section)

2 At the Court of Philip the Good of Burgundy, ca. 1450

2.1 The Duchy of Burgundy

One of the most important political, intellectual, and cultural centers of 15th century Europe.

- United large territories in France and the Low Countries
- played a key role in issues between European countries (100 year war, influence on several countries)
- Nominal capital was Dijon, but capital also moved between Brussels, Bruges, Lille, and Ghent

- **Phillip III (Philip the Good)** ruled between 1419-1467 and had an immense influence on Europe and expanded Dutch power. Philip the Good also supported scholars, writers, artists, musicians.
 - **Philip’s court chapel:** one of Europe’s largest musical establishment that performed both secular and church music. Musicians at the chapel were well compensated.
 - **Burgundian cathedral schools:** had the best musical and general education in Europe that basically guaranteed jobs for graduates. Musicians were so good that they were known as **Franco-Flemish** and were fought over by other European courts.
 - **Philip’s library:** one of Europe largest libraries that had manuscripts and musical manuscripts.
 - **Feast of the Pheasant:** grand banquet hosted by Philip the Good where him and his knights publicly took the "Oath of the Pheasant"; a vow to launch a crusade to free Constantinople from the Turks.
 - * **L’homme arme (The Armed Man):** monophonic chanson performed at the feast. Featured militant text with a melodic trumpet call to encourage Christians to arm themselves for battle. The tune ended up being a popular Mass cantus-firmus.
- **Guillaume de Machaut:** celebrated French poet and composer
 - served variety of noble patrons across Europe
 - associated with Cathedral of Notre-Dame of Rheims
 - works were primarily composed in form fixes
 - * **Ballade** - aabC
 - * **Rondeau** - ABaAabAB
 - * **Virelai** - AbbaA

These works typically consisted of 3 voices using the **ballade/cantilena** style

 - * Lively melody in the **cantus** (dominant voice, written first)
 - * **Tenor:** supports/cadences with the **cantus**
 - * **Contratenor:** middle voice (usually written last for textural filler)

2.2 Rose liz printemps verdure

Written by Guillaume de Machaut in a 4-voice rondeau (ABaAabAB) where the tune is shared by the cantus and triplum.

- **Cantilena style:** only cantus is texted, all other voices are instrumental
- style is expanded in size (long refrain)
- Uses rhythmic and notational innovations of **Ars Nova** (duple and triple meter, syncopation, hemiola)
- Decorative melismas start each poetic line

The Rondeau’s structure is also emphasized poetically by rhymes and musically by

- Hierarchy of cadences: strong at the end of the refrain (**double-leading-tone**) and weaker at half-points (**Phrygian**)
- **Musical rhyme:** same music ends both halves of the refrain (with different cadences)

2.3 Gilles Binchois (Gilles de Bins)

Composer, singer, and organist trained at a cathedral school. Worked in Philip the Good’s court chapels until retirement and primarily composed 3-voice chansons (rondeaux and ballades)

2.3.1 Deuil angoisseux (ceremonial ballade (aa'bC))

- Setting of the famous poetic lament by Christine de Pisane.
- Music is written in Cantilena style (tune in the cantus and supported by tenor/contratenor).
- Also uses musical rhyme (a' and C end with the same melisma; b and C start the same)
- Music is notably bright, major-ish harmonies

2.4 The English Guise

Sweeter, more consonant music style preferred in English that traveled to Burgundy with the English armies during the 100-Year War. Burgundian musicians also it learned while working at English continental courts and by interacting with English composers in Burgundy. Characteristics include

- Strong preference for imperfect consonances (full triad, parallel 3rds/6ths, chains of 6/3 chords)
- Careful control of dissonance (prepare/resolve chords, but never on strong beats/important words)
- Syllabic text settings in a homophonic texture
- Burgundian composers merged guises with their own compositional material, resulting in a new international musical style: **Franco-Flemish polyphony**.

2.4.1 John Dunstable

Known for his English guise

- Primarily sacred genres (Mass movements, motets)
- Preference for consonant 3 voice setting
- Strongly consonant, triad-dominated textures (e.g. **Quam pulchra es**)

2.4.2 Quam pulchra es

3-voice motet (short setting of Latin sacred text)

- Freely composed setting (no borrowed chant)
- Text from **The Song of Songs** is set syllabically (musical structural, rhythmic patterns, cadence placement guided by the poetry)
- Homophonic texture filled with triads and 6/3 chords

2.4.3 Johannes Tinctoris

Burgundian theorist and composer who claimed in his treatise **Liber de arte contrapuncti** that Franco-Flemish music has reached a state of perfection and that everything written before it was not worth listening to.

2.4.4 Martin le Franc

Burgundian court poet who also claimed that early French composers' music pales to that of Burgundian composers who have learned to use pleasant consonant sound.

2.4.5 Guillaume Du Fay

Had an illustrious international career and was known to be the greatest Burgundian composer of his generation.

- Honorary member of Philip of Burgundy's court chapel
- Had many European noble patrons
- **Nuper rosarum flores**: Du Fay's grant motet for the dedication ceremony (dedication of Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore)
- Standardized the first type of polyphonic Mass Ordinary (**cyclical cantus-firmus Mass**)
 - Signature genre of Franco-Flemish composers
 - consists of 5 movements
 - Same borrowed melody in the tenor for all movements (**cantus-firmus**). This can be from a chant or from a secular song.

2.4.6 Nuper rosarum flores

Consists of 4 voices

- 2 tenors
- motetus
- triplum

Borrows the chant **Terribilis est locus iste**, an introit of the Mass for the dedication of the church

Some important number symbolism to note

- 7 ("Virgin Mary"): lines per stanza, syllables per line
- 4 ("temple"): number of poetic stanzas, voices, sections
- 14 ("days of Temple dedication feast"): number of pitches in chant fragment
- 28 ($7 * 4$, $14 * 2$): total number of poetic lines; total number of pitches in 2 tenors of each section; total number of **tempora** (time units) in each section

Chant fragment is written out once and is completed by a **canon** (instructions on how to perform it).

Is an **isorhythmic** motet that features repeated **colors** (repeated pitch pattern) and **Talea** (repeated rhythmic pattern)

2.4.7 Missa L'homme arme

Cantus-firmus Mass by Guillaume Du Fay (first known example of L'homme armee Mass)

- Borrowed melody appears at least once in the tenor of all 5 movements
- Consists of 4 voices (SATB quartet) that do not share range
- Reduced textures, with sections beginning with a **duet**
- **Motto technique**: all movements begin with a variant of the same duet
- Melodic/rhythmic gestures of L'homme arme appear in the other voices

Gloria cantus-firmus appears once per section. Each section starts with a duet then continues in a 4-part texture

- 1st statement of cantus-firmus in long notes
- 2nd statement is 1/3 faster; creating a hemiola

Agnus Del: 3 distinct sections, each treats the cantus-firmus differently

- Agnus-I: starts with a duet, then 1 complete statement in the tenor
- Agnus-II: faster, 3-voice section (no tenor); opening cantus-altus duet in imitation, then a variant of the L'homme arme tune fast in the bassus
- Agnus-III: returns to slower pace, 4 voices. 2 statements of cantus firmus: slow in retrograde, then in its original form but melodically ornamented and twice as fast.

2.5 Messe de Nostre-Dame

Written by Guillaume de Machaut and was the first known polyphonic setting of the Mass Ordinary.

- 4 voices sing continuously (no monophonic sections)
- Characteristic descending motif in all movements (a unifying device)
- **Gloria, Credo:** freely composed (no chant)
- **Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Del, Ite Missa Est, Amen of Credo:** (texts based on local Rheims-area chants that are used in **isorhythmic procedure** in the tenor)