



Band Virtual Learning

High School Band

April 16th, 2020



High School Band Lesson: April 16th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about early music notation.

- Interdisciplinary connections between music and related arts and humanities (GLE 1A)
- Historical and Cultural Context; Stylistic practices (GLE 1B)



This lesson will

- Introduce you to the first musical notation
- Help you understand where our staff system came from
- Introduce you to Guido d'Arezzo
- Build connections between music classes



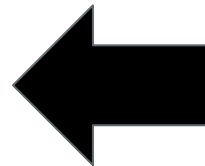
Warm up Activity:

You will see these terms used in the next several slides:

1. **Neumes**: a medieval system of musical notation (the black dots and lines used in the first written music)
2. **CE and BCE**: CE stands for Current Era (meaning what is being referenced happened after year zero). BCE means Before Current Era (meaning what is being referenced happened before year zero).
3. **Unison**: 2 or more musicians performing the same notes/rhythms at the same time.
4. **Harmony**: Different pitches/notes played at the same time.

Prior To Neumes:

- Experts believe that music has always been a part of the human experience. The oldest instrument to date is between 42,000 - 43,000 years old!
- Although written music has not survived that long, we can't be certain it didn't exist!
- What we do have record of, begins between 800 - 1000 CE.

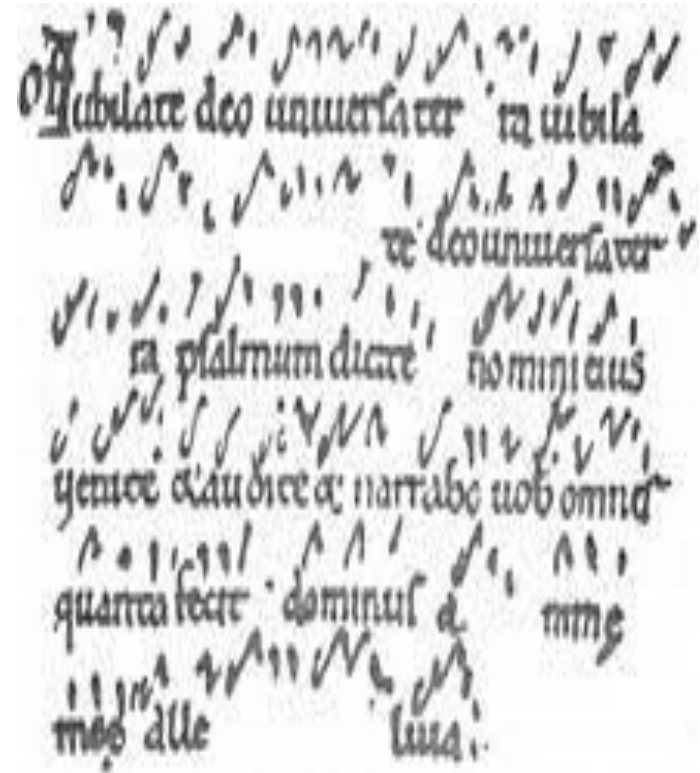


These are bird bones with holes created to make music 42,000 - 43,000 years ago!

First Written Music:

The picture on the right shows how music was first written down. The shapes above the words indicate the contour (shape) of the melody. Pretty hard to read, right?

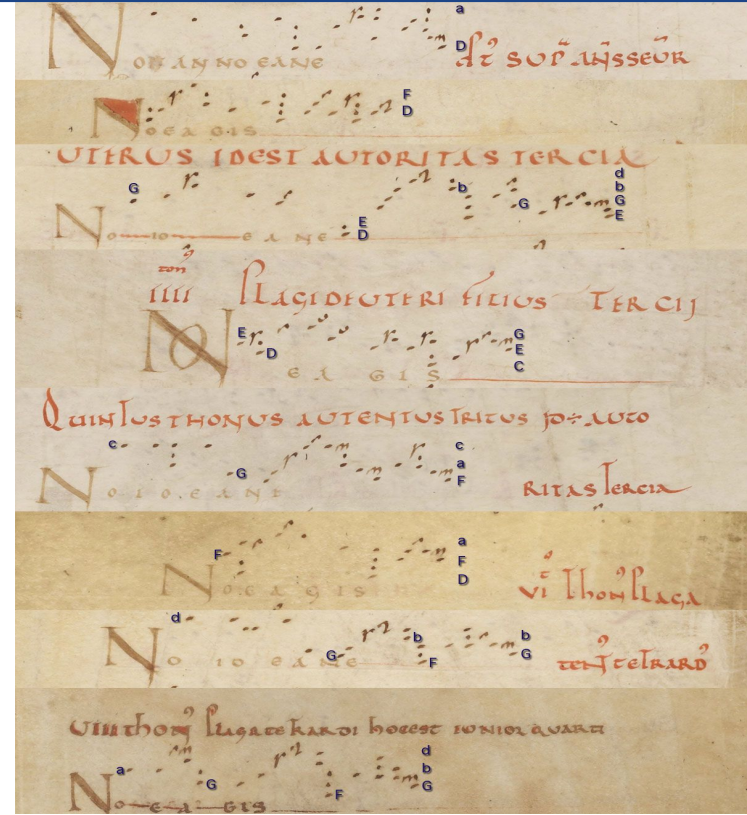
Presently, anyone who is willing to learn an instrument can be a musician! Back in 1000 CE only religious monks were allowed to perform music publically! They had to go through 10 years of school to learn all the music required for their church!



Listening Example:

[Listen](#) to this example of Gregorian Chant

- What did you notice while listening to gregorian chant?
- Could you hear any Harmony? Were there any instruments?
- In this example we do hear an organ playing with the singers, however this was uncommon in 1000 CE. Back then, you would only hear singers singing in unison with no instruments.

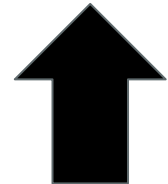
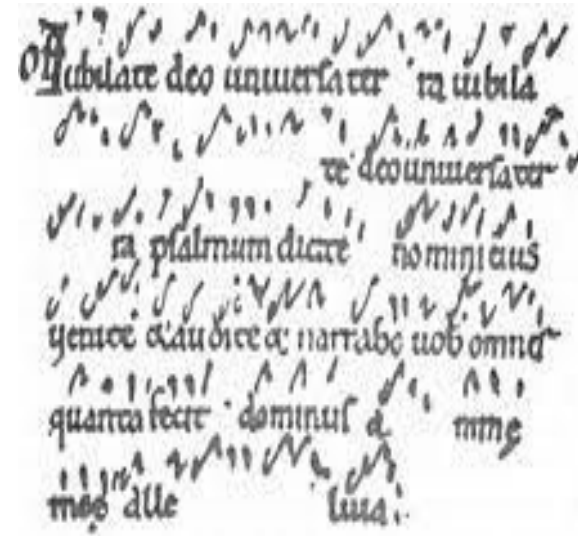


What does this mean?

Imagine being given a map. You have the shape of the roads on the map but not any road names, directions or even a starting point! Would you be able to follow the map?

This is exactly how the first musical notation was written. The contour (or shape) of the melody was provided, but not an exact pitch (note) to start on and no exact rhythm.

Neumes were more of a reminder for of an already learned song. You could look at the neumes and remember the shape of the melody to jog your memory of how it sounds.



First musical notation

Pitch Indication:

- Notice the difference from the first example? *Hint - there is now a red line!*
- The thin red line represented the pitch “F”. This gave musicians an opportunity to see where the other notes were in relationship to F!
- We now have a map with the shape of the roads and a starting point! Still no clear rhythm and the precision of the pitch isn't always clear, but it's a start!



MS 1681

Beneventan neumes on a single line red F-staff. Montecassino, Italy, 2nd half of 12th c.

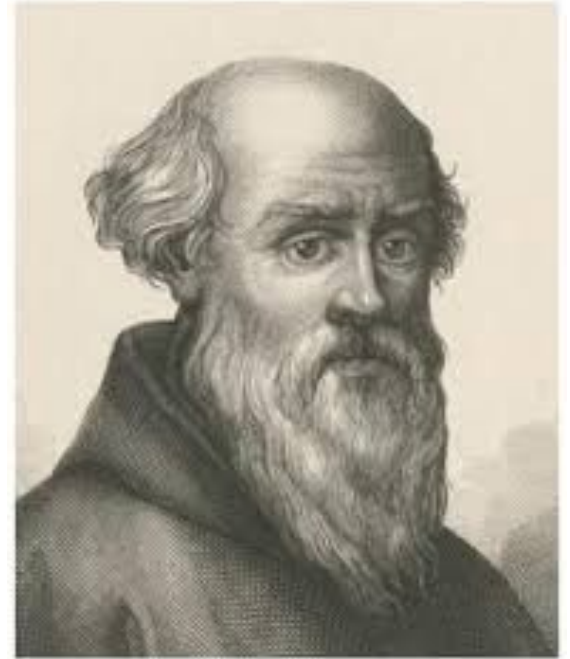
Guido d'Arezzo (990 - 1050 CE):

* Guido was a monk who came up with the idea of a staff!
He came up with 4 lines and 3 spaces to indicate pitch!

* Lets watch a short video about Guido d'Arezzo (also known as the father of musical notation!) [Guido d'Arezzo](#)

* Look how far we've come with musical notation! Our scales today are based on the hymn Guido wrote down!

* Written down in band notes: Do(C) - Re(D) - Mi(E) - Fa(F) - Sol(G) - La(A) - Ti(B) - Do(C). This can be applied to any Scale!



Reading Music for the first time:

*The picture to the right is a good representation of what Guidos staff looked like!

*Obviously we've added a few things to our current day staff like a fifth line, time signature, key signature, and clefs. However, Guidos staff was the foundation for how we read music today!





Why is this Important?

- Prior to Neumes, music was passed down through listening only. It took an average of 10 years for singers to be proficient. After Guido's invention, it only took one year!
- With the invention of the printing press, music could be given out to the public and utilized everywhere!
- Now we can sight read music without knowing what it sounds like before we start!
- We still use the foundations of Guido's staff to this day!



Let's Learn More!

- [Article about the earliest known instrument](#)
- [Britannica Encyclopedia - Neumes](#)
- [Britannica Encyclopedia - Guido d'Arezzo](#)
- [Howard Goodall Music Notation Video](#)

Fun video about the clefs! [How Musical clefs came to be](#)