

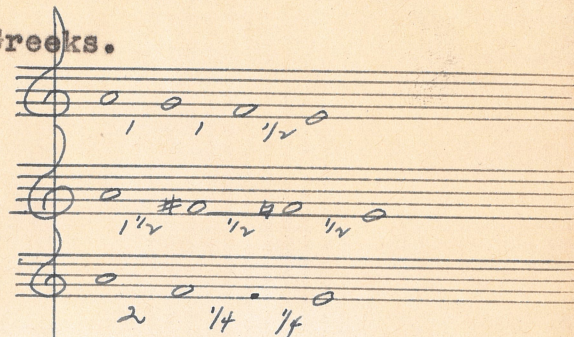
ADVANCED HISTORY  
and  
AESTHETIC ANALYSIS

# 1. The musical system of the ancient Greeks.

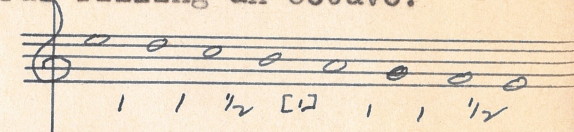
Tetrachords: a) diatonic

b) chromatic

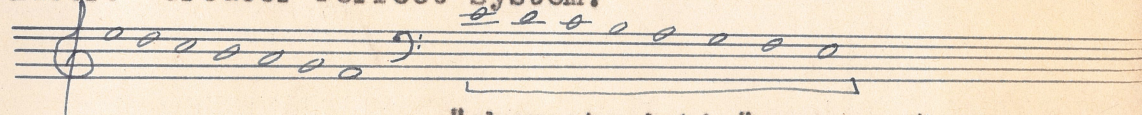
c) enharmonic



later: two diatonic tetrachords filling an octave:

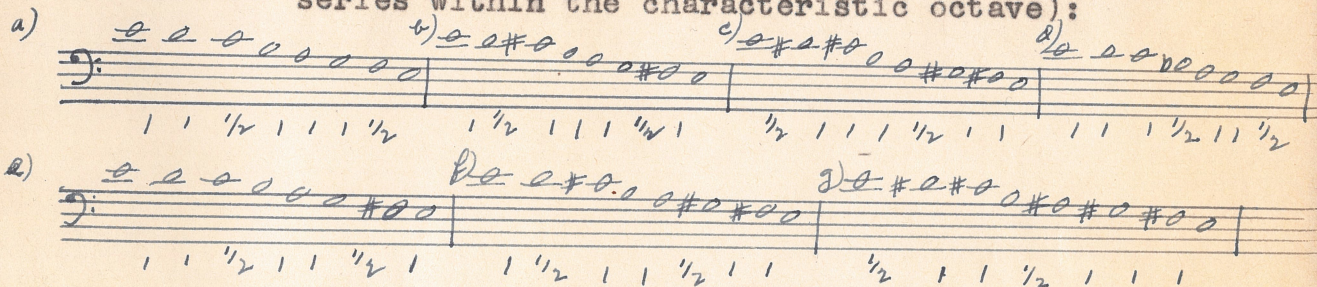


later: Greater Perfect System:



"characteristic" octave (typical for the range of the male voice)

Various "octave species" (arrangements of diatonic series within the characteristic octave):

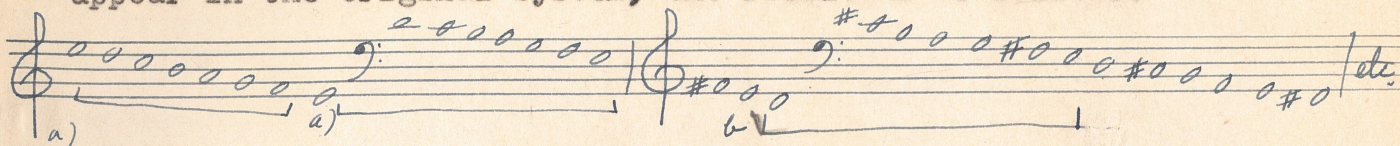


In the Greater Perfect System without accidentals the octave species can be found as follows:



that is in descending order.

If the "octave species" appearing within the characteristic octave are to be shown as parts of Greater Perfect Systems, located in each of these Systems at the same place as they appear in the original System, the result is as follows:



That is: since in the original system the octave species b) begins one tone below the E, reaching from d to D, the System which corresponds to the species b), reaching from e to E, must begin one tone higher than E, that is F#. The diatonic series thus obtained shows two sharps (C# and F#), according to the two sharps appearing in the octave species b). That means that the original diatonic series is now transposed up by one whole step (compare the relationship of C major and D major). The process goes on, by computing the diatonic series corresponding to the octave species c), d), e) etc. The corresponding diatonic species follow each other in ascending order.

Result: if one calls the octave species "modes", the modes follow each other in descending order with reference to the untransposed Greater Perfect System.

If one wants to have all "modes" within the range of the characteristic octave, one has to assume a sequence of Greater Perfect Systems in ascending order, corresponding to the previously established order of the modes.

[ref. Reese, Music of  
the Middle Ages,

2. Byzantine Chant. The music of the Eastern Church.

Strongly influenced by the music used in the earliest centuries of the Christian religion, which goes back to Asiatic sources (Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor). About the theoretical organization of the tone material little is known. Reference is made to the "Oktoechos" (eight "sounds"), probably a sort of tentative classification of tunes according to modal characteristics. The term "mode" indicates here certain characteristics common to various melodies (skips, formulae, endings, etc.)

[ref. Reese; Tillyard, ~~in Mus. Quart.~~]

*Medieval Byzantine Music, Mus. Quart.,  
Apr. 1957.]*

### 3. Gregorian Chant, Notation, Neumes.

The music of the Western Church, collected and unified under Pope Gregory (600 A.D.) Additions were made up to 1400 A.D. The melodies were originally handed down orally only, later written in "neumes". Since the significance of the neumes became doubtful, much of the Gregorian melodies was corrupted in the course of time. Thorough reconstruction through the monks of Solesmes, in the 19th century, now accepted as authentic. Published in the "Paléographie musicale" (15 vol., 1889-1931).

[Ref. record collections made by the Benedictines of Solesmes; by the Benedictines of St. Benoit-du-lac (Lake Memphremagog), Quebec; Missa de Angelis (with explanations), Catholic choir, Brooklyn;

The ancient theorist, Aristides Quintilianus, distinguishes three ways of vocal rendition: continuous (inflection of normal speech)  
discontinuous (singing in definite intervals)  
medium (something in between the two, probably similar to Schönberg's "Sprechstimme")

Originally psalmody was of indefinite pitch, possibly in the third of the above three manners.

Signs for indicating the desired inflection of the chant were derived from the grammatic accents: acutus, gravis, and circumflexus ^, which in turn were graphic imitations of the typical gestures of the orator.

This oldest type of notation is called chironomic. Here the form of the sign indicates the relative position of the tone.

It is later replaced by the diastematic notation (Greek: diastema--interval). Here the position of the sign indicates the pitch.

The characteristic symbols of chironomic notation are accent signs, those of diastematic notation are points.

The transition from the former to the later notation occurs mainly in the 9th century.

In the 10th and 11th century it is replaced by the Guidonian notation, using staves and clefs.

The essential elements of the old neumes are the three accent signs (see above). More signs are derived through combining and modifying these original signs.

Forms of Gregorian Chant:

1. Strophic: repetition of melodic and metric patterns
2. Psalmodic: metrically irregular; alternation of two melodic patterns, according to the typical division of the psalm verses in two sections.
3. Commatic: free compositions with varying designs.

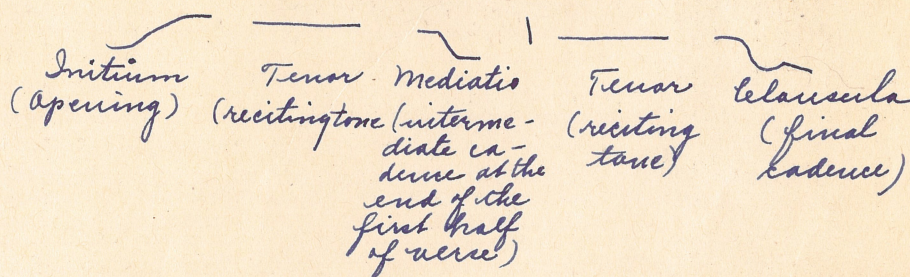
Manners of rendition:

1. Monologue: sung by the celebrant
2. Dialogue: a) responsorial: alternating between refrain-like recurring formulae  
b) antiphonal: alternating between two sections of the choir.

*celebrant and choir; the latter usually has*

Material of the Chant:

- a) Office: service performed at various hours of the liturgical day. Mostly antiphonal version of Psalm texts. The melodic formulae used are called Psalm Tones. Typical form of a psalm tone:



- b) Mass: Proprium (earlier); Ordinarium (later). These melodies, assigned to properly trained choirs, became more and more elaborate.

It became customary to extend the melodies, particularly those on the word "Alleluja" by free coloratura-like passages, called jubili. As it appeared difficult to memorize these jubili, the monk Nokter Balbulus of St. Gall (9th cent.) had the idea of setting words to the jubili, assigning one syllable to each tone. These new items were called sequences. They became so popular that the unity of the service seemed threatened. The Council of Trent (16th cent.) therefore abolished all of them with exception of four which are still being used.

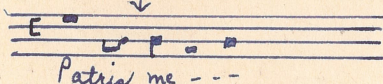
The Guidonian neumes are:

1. ordinary (indicating the basic design of the melody)
2. liquescent (indicating modifications of the melody through the text)
3. Romanian letters (only in the St. Gall manuscripts, indicating dynamic and agogic nuances. [Oldest form of expression marks, about 800 A.D.,])

The basic forms of 1. are punctum . (derived from gravis)  
 and virga | (from acutus)  
 pes or podatus : (stepwise up)  
 clivis r. (stepwise down)  
 torculus ~ ~ ~  
 porrectus ~ ~ ~

Further combinations result in neumes comprising three, four and more tones. That shows that the neumes did not only indicate pitches of single notes, but also units of phrasing.

The neumes of class 2 indicate mainly a sort of intermediate short notes (like grace notes) which were inserted when an accumulation of consonants seemed to call for it.



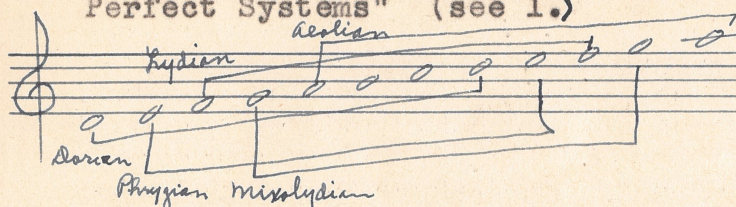
To this class also belongs the quilisma, indicating a sort of shake, appearing on passing tones, as a rule.

The Romanian letters (allegedly introduced to the monastery of St. Gall by Romanus) are abbreviations of directions to the singer (e.g. : c --citius, faster, t-- trahere, retard, v-- velociter, quickly, etc.)

According to Paléographic musicale, all notes of the Chant are of equal length (for divergent opinions see Reese, p. 140 ff) Repeated notes on the same syllable are tied over.

The linguistic accent determines emphases on certain tones. Apart from that, there is supposed to exist a delicate accent pattern of "ictus", determined by the phrasing of the rhythmic units expressed through the neumes. Thus for instance the first note of each group carries an ictus; so does the note preceding a quilisma, etc. The beats carrying the ictus are called theses, the other ones arses. This, however, does not imply dynamic stresses on the theses (as modern parlance would suggest), unless the linguistic accent coincides with a thesis. The Solesmes theory, however, maintains that such is rather exceptional, the linguistic accent being usually placed on an arsis, so that a very intricate interplay of linguistic and neumatic accent patterns is the result.

4. The mediaeval modes. Identical with the Greek octave species. The old names were used, but in opposite order, due to misunderstandings in the translation of the Greek terms for "octave species" and "Greater Perfect Systems" (see 1.)



The melodies ascribed to the different modes usually did not exceed the range of the octave (ambitus), except for one tone below the first note of the modal scale (final).

To each of the above shown authentic modes belongs one plagal, or hypo-mode, which has the same final, but an ambitus from a fourth below to a fifth above the final. The system as shown here was not fully established until 1550, by the Swiss theorist Glareanus, in his Dodekachordon.

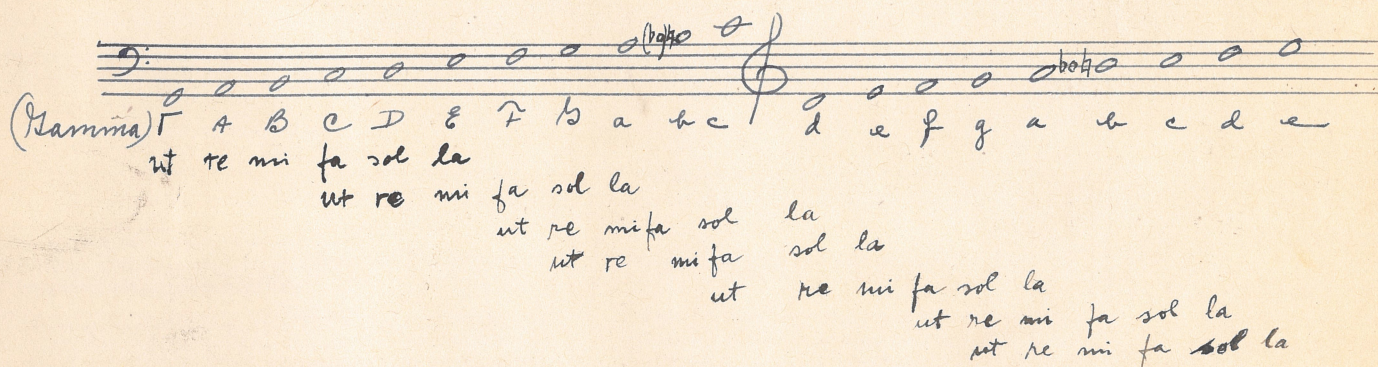
[ref. Jeppesen, Counterpoint,



## 6. Solmization and Musica ficta

Guido of Arezzo (11th. cent.)

- a) notation: first attempts to indicate the pitch of tones more exactly; one line for C, one for f. Later four lines.
- b) hexachord system; a mnemonic device for singers, exploiting the fact that six lines of a St. John's hymn began each one diatonic step higher than the preceding line. The tones were called after the opening syllables of the text: ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la. These syllables indicated the relative position of any tone within a diatonic series. Applied to the known range of tones, the following picture was obtained:



Any tone in the system could be identified completely by its combination of syllables.

The hexachords beginning on F required special treatment since a half tone step after A was needed. This led to the introduction of B flat. B *rotundum*, or molle  
B *quadratum*, or durum.

The alteration was called "musica ficta" (artificial music). It was used causa necessitatis (for the sake of necessity, in order to avoid the tritone), or causa pulchritudinis (for the sake of beauty, in order to enhance expressive qualities). Practically only the B<sup>(b)</sup> flat was used, but the theorists knew already the complete twelve-tone scale.

[ref. Reese, Oxford Hist.  
v.1]

7. Leoninus and Perotinus, organists and chór masters at Notre Dame in Paris (13th century).

Two, three, and four-part compositions (Duplum, Triplum, Quadruplum). Development of organum: the principal voice carries the melody in long sustained notes, the organal voice, or voices, have florid counterpoints, usually in rather short phrases of equal length.  
[ record: Med & Ren. Music  
2]

Forms of Composition:

Organum (see above)

Conductus (all participating parts are "measured"  
[see 8.] occasionally interspersed with  
Organum)

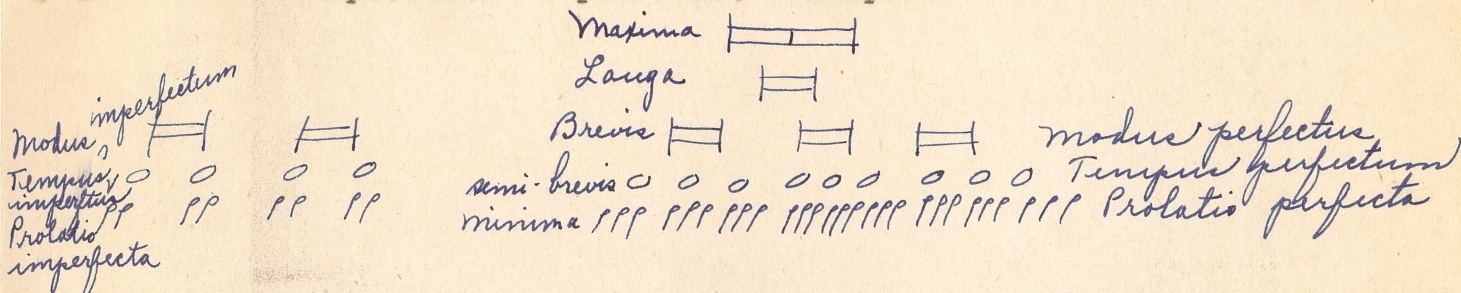
Motetus (using a cantus firmus from the Gregorian  
Chant in the Tenor) (ref. Reese; Oxford Hist.  
v.1)

Rondeau (phrases are exchanged among the parts;  
rudiments of "double counterpoint")

Rota (Canon; example--Summer is icumen in)

# 8. Cantus mensurabilis (measured music). (13th cent.)

Plain chant (cantus planus)--freely articulated, after the inflexion of prose. Length of tones not determined. The rise of polyphony made it necessary to determine the duration of the single tones. Complicated systems of measurement, according to the meters used in poetry. Later three levels of measurement: Modus, Tempus, Prolatio. Perfect--triple time. Imperfect: duple time. Example:



In the early period of polyphony only "perfect" subdivisions were used.

After the Guidonian notation had achieved unequivocal designation of pitches, all further attempts in developing useful systems of notation have been devoted to clear designation of rhythmic values.

Two main systematical trends: Black Notation and White Notation.

Black notation: the essential devices added to the Guidonian notes with the purpose of distinguishing various rhythmic values were stems and dots. The old neumatic groups survived in the ligatures, groups of notes; if the original meaning of such groupings was to indicate metric relationships (according to the Solemes (ictus theory), these groupings were now used to express rhythmic values, according to the position of notes with or without downward or upward stems within such ligatures. The systems evolved were not always consistent, very complicated and variable. Franco of Cologne (about 1260) perfected a more unified and usable system of notation, some principles of which form still the basis of our present notation. Generally speaking, problems arise, and changes in the notational principles become necessary, as the evolution of the musical style proceeds to bring increasingly smaller rhythmic values in the focus of attention. Later coloration of notes is frequently being used in order to clarify rhythmic relationships.

White notation: after 1450 the familiar principle of discriminating rhythmical values by using hollow and filled-in notes comes into use. Ligatures still persist.

9. Counterpoint. (13th & 14th cent.)

Regulations in regard to the intervals to be used between the parts. The most elaborate classification (Johannes de Garlandia) has three classes of both consonances and dissonances (perfect, intermediate, imperfect). Disagreement among the theorists in regard to the classification of intervals.

Most important principle: the so-called Franconian \* law (13th century); only consonances on the first beats of rhythmic units (not to be confused with the modern concept of "strong beats", which involves dynamic stress). For the rest, great freedom in the use of dissonances.

Other rules emerging gradually and believed valid at different times during this period:

The fourth is considered increasingly as a dissonance and should not be used in relation to the lowest part, preferably above a fifth. (Johannes de Muris; Sixths and thirds become more and more acceptable as consonances.

One should avoid a sequence of perfect consonances.

(J. de Muris)

In a three-part setting, the third part (triplum) should have consonances with the principal part, dissonances with the second part; preferably consonances with the lowest part. [Anonymous I]

Contrary motion and parallel motion should alternate.

[ref.: Coussemaker, Scriptorum...;

Oxford Hist./v. 1; Jeppesen, Counterpoint, (Introd. Vol and)

10. Ars Nova. Machault and Landini (14th cent.)

- a) greater rhythmic life and variety through introduction of smaller rhythmic values, duple time (prolatio imperfecta) and syncopation;
- b) more extended use of musica ficta in order to comply with the keener discrimination of interval qualities;
- c) increased attention paid to cadences, through purposeful use of leading tones.

First known polyphonic setting of the Ordinarium Missae:  
Mass of Tournai (around 1300).

Guillaume Machault, french poet and musician, court official. Motets, Ballads, one Mass.

Francesco Landini, organist in Florence.

Secular compositions: Ballads, Madrigal.  
Use of Canon (caccia)

[ref. Oxford Hist., v. 1;  
Landini, Works; ~~article~~  
~~on Landini by Ellinwood,~~  
~~mus. Quart.~~ Ellinwood,  
Francesco Landini and  
his music, Mus. Quart.,  
Apr. 1936.  
Machault: records in  
Anthologie Sonore]

particularly:

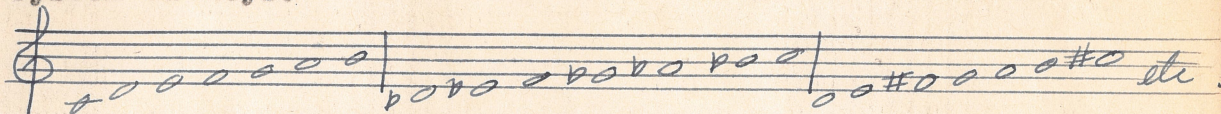
110, 116,

117, 120, 121

# 11. Gamut, Mode and Key.

The diatonic series comprising the mediaeval modes is nowadays called "gamut". In some compositions of the 13th and 14th centuries the different voices use different gamuts simultaneously. This is shown by accidentals in front of the stave (see Laydini examples). It means that the underlying diatonic series was transposed to a different pitch.

Theoretically a diatonic series can be established on any of the twelve tones, as it is done in the modern system of keys.



In mediaeval music the number of available transpositions was limited by the number of available altered tones.

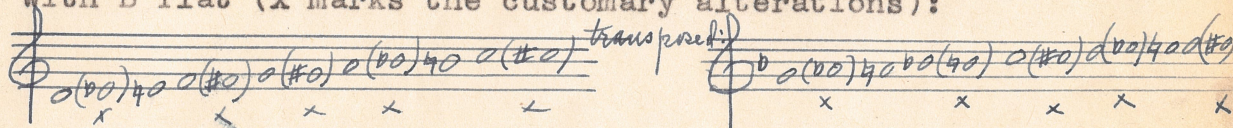
Since originally only the B flat was available, only the gamut with B flat was used besides the original one (shown under 6.) In this gamut the Dorian mode begins on G, the Phrygian on A, etc.

More musica ficta came into being used, when it became customary to raise leading tones in the approaches to the finals from below.

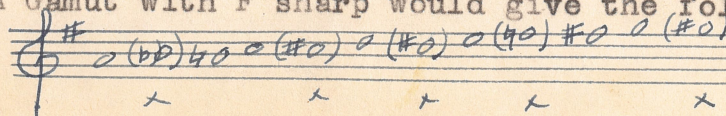
Thus C sharp (in Dorian), F sharp (in Mixolydian) and G sharp (in Aeolian) became available. Besides B flat, E flat was used (as musica ficta in the secondary gamut, corresponding to B flat in the original one).

The question whether a transposed gamut can be used, and how far it can be used, is determined by whether the customary musica ficta will not exceed the number of available altered tones.

The following table shows the transformations involved in a transposition of the original gamut to one with B flat (x marks the customary alterations):

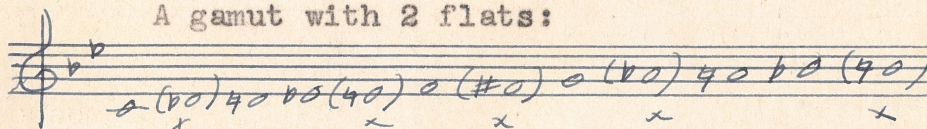


of the new altered tones, only A flat is not available. A Gamut with F sharp would give the following result:



Of the new altered tones, D sharp is not available; therefore the use of the Aeolian mode in this gamut will be restricted, because the leading tone of the (transposed) Aeolian mode is D and could not be raised.

A gamut with 2 flats:



D flat and A flat are not available; therefore melodic formations which in the original gamut require E flat and B flat (that is mainly such in the Dorian and Lydian Modes) will be difficult.

The transition from one gamut to another is identical with the modern concept of modulation from key to key.

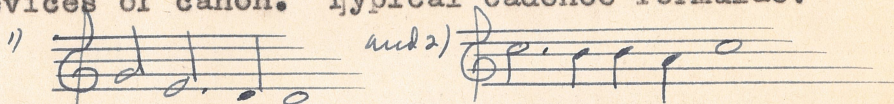
Definition: Key is the pitch level of a mode.

The mediaeval idiom has six (twelve) modes, but only a few keys, some of them incomplete (because not all modes can be used in all of the keys.)

The tonal idiom has twelve keys, but only two modes (major and minor).

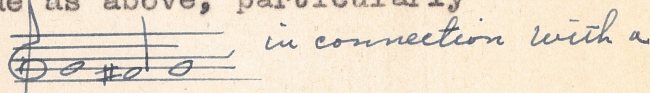
## 12. Dunstable and Dufay (early 15th cent.)

John Dunstable, English composer, born about 1390. Hymns and Motets, mostly in three-part settings. Florid, lyrical, top-voice against sustained-quiet progressions in the lower parts. Intricate devices of canon. Typical cadence formulae:

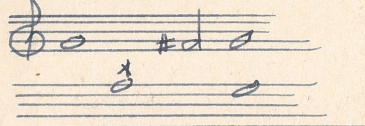


Guillaume Dufay, Cannon of Cambrai (France), 1400, 1470. Masses and Hymns. Use of the Cantus firmus as a source for the thematic material of the whole composition. Great rhythmic variety and subtle distribution of accents and points of emphasis. Cadence formulae as above, particularly

x) Later also



in connection with a suspended dissonance, such as



Most important source for music of the 15th cent.: the Codices of Trent, partly published in Denkmäler der Tonkunst in Österreich (DTÖ) (Monuments of Music in Austria). The Codices of Trent apparently were a reference library used by the Council of Trent (middle of the 16th cent.) during their deliberations on ecclesiastical music.

[ref. Oxford Hist., v. 2; DTÖ, Cod. of Trent; Dufay, Mass "Se la face ay pale", on Hamline Microfilms; record in Anthologie Sonore; Van den Borren, A Light of the Fifteenth Century: Guillaume Dufay, Mass. Quart., July 1935]

### 13. The proportional system.

A device to change the tempo in one voice in relation to that of other voices. This was not done by using different rhythmic values or signs like  $\overline{3}$ ,  $\overline{5}$ ,  $\overline{6}$ , as we would do in modern notation, but by indicating how many of the standard rhythmic values should be sung after the change of speed against a given number of rhythmic values in the voice continuing in the preceding, or basic speed.

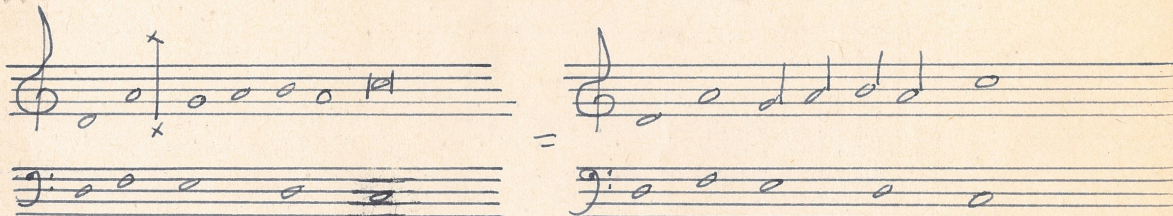
An intricate system of proportions was worked out by various theorists (Morley, Monachus, Tinctor [or Tinctoris,]). The most important are:

#### Genus multiple.

In this genus the greater number contains the smaller twice, or three, or four times, that is, after the change of speed the voice affected by it proceeds (a) twice as fast, or b) three, or c) four times as fast.  
[Principle of diminution].

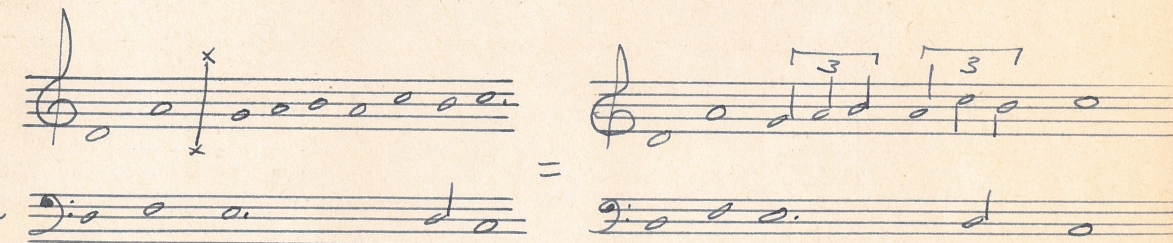
2  
1

a)  
Ratio Dupla



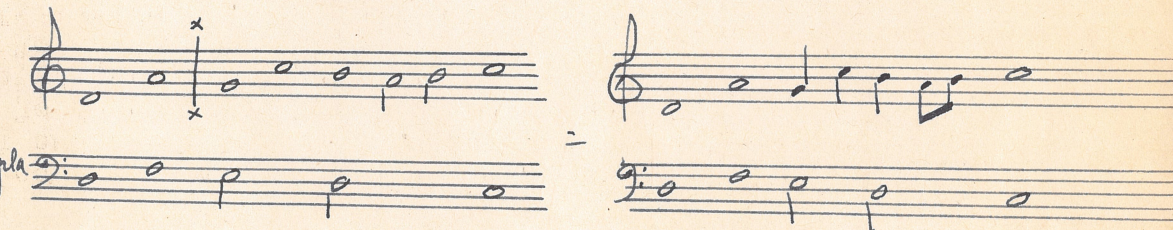
3  
1

b)  
Ratio Tripla



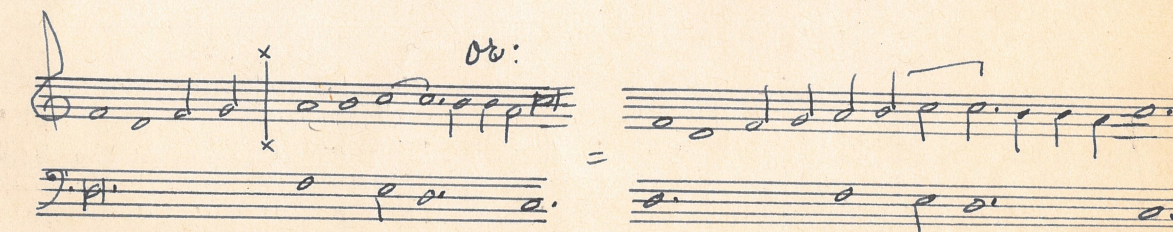
4  
1

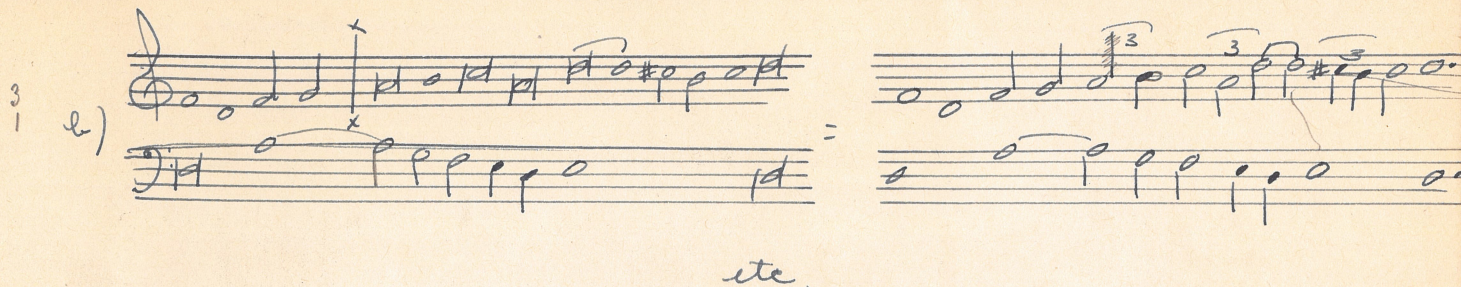
c)  
Ratio Quadrupla



2  
1

a)





### Genus superparticulare.

The greater number contains the smaller plus its half, or its third, or its fourth part, that is, after the change of speed the part affected by it proceeds so that now (a) three of its rhythmic values stand against two in the other part, or six against four, or nine against six, etc.; or (b) four against three, or eight against six, etc.; or (c) five against four, ten against eight etc.

3  
2

a)  
Ratio  
sesquialtera

b)

4  
3

b)  
Ratio  
sesquitercia

c)

5  
4

c)  
Ratio  
sesquiquarta

(the effect is the same as in Ratio tripla)

When these proportions are reversed, the ratios result in augmentation instead of diminution. Further combinations lead to an unbelievable complexity of rhythmic patterns.

[ref. Oxford Hist. v. 2]

#### 14. The Netherland School of Polyphony.

Three epochs are usually distinguished:

- 1) Dufay and his followers; first half of the 15th century;
- 2) Ockeghem & Obrecht; middle part of the 15th century;
- 3) Josquin Depres and his followers, including Palestrina and his contemporaries; last part of the 15th c. and entire 16th century.

It is more correct to call 1) the Burgundian School, as it was flourishing in the realm of Burgundy the center of which was Dijon; it included most of eastern France and Flanders; 2) the Flemish School, as most of the composers were Dutchmen; 3) the franco-flemish-Italian School, as the first international style (after the Gregorian Chant), eventually including Germany and Spain.

[cf. Paul Lang, The So-Called Netherlands Schools, Mus. Quart., January 1939,

15. Ockeghem and Obrecht. 1430.

Johannes Ockeghem, master of the french Royal Chapel in Paris. He is best known for having brought the devices of canon to unprecedented perfection. He wrote pieces with as many as 36 voices; also some curious compositions which could be sung in various different modes on different pitch levels, by using always the same notation (such pieces were called "Catholica" [Missae Cujusvis Toni]

[Oxf. Hist., V. ii; Levitan, Ockeghem's Clefless Compositions, Mus. Quart. Oct. 1937]

His masses are very expressive and of great rhythmic variety and liveliness.

[Ockeghem, Works, and DTO; Missae "Caput" and Quinti Toni" on Hamline microfilms]

Jacob Obrecht. Organist & Chapel master in Cambrai, later in Antwerp.

Ecclesiastical music in a style related to that of Ockeghem, less elaborate in contrapuntal devices.

[rec. Med. & Ren. Music, 7-10]

16. Josquin de Prés (Deprés, Jodocus a Prato,  
Josse van der Weyden). 1450.

Pupil of Ockeghem. Lived mostly in France and Burgundy, but spent some time in Italy, also at the Sistine Chapel.

His music shows complete mastery of the contrapuntal resources developed by Ockeghem and foreshadows the elegance of the 16th century style.

He was interested in extending the devices of music ficta (Motet "Absalon") and is credited with having started the movement of the musica reservata (see 17.)

[Mass "L'Homme armé" on Hamline  
Microfilms; Motet Absalon,  
Oxf. Hist., V. II);  
records: 2000 Jahre Musik;  
Ave verum; Mass La Sol Fa Re Mi,  
in Schering.]

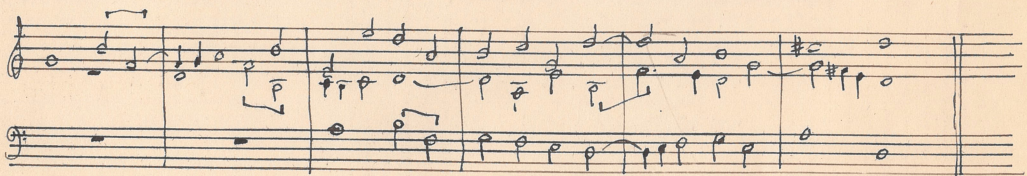
17. Musica Reservata.

A term used in various treatises of the 16th century (the first time by Hermannus Coclicus, about 1550) without detailed explanation. Literally: reserved music, such as music for a selected group of people or the like. Numerous inconclusive explanations were attempted. Recently Edward Lovinsky advanced the following attractive theory:

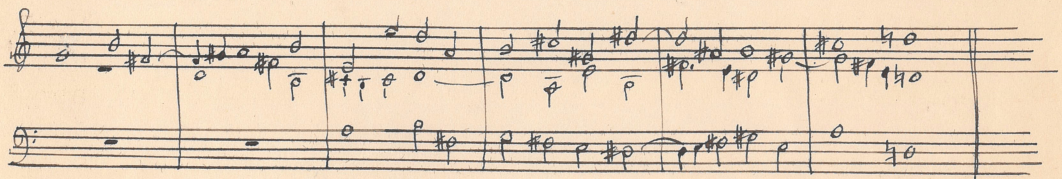
Musica reservata is an unprecedented expansion of musica ficta, with a view of using all possible alterations, a practice which would ultimately destroy the modal system and lead to modern chromatic harmony. Such experiments being frowned at as "subversive" the composers interested in them did not notate the alterations, but hinted at them by using tritonous progressions and intervals which, in itself faulty, could be corrected only by introducing the suspected alterations. Only the initiated would know how to handle this music correctly, hence the reservata.

(*ficta*)

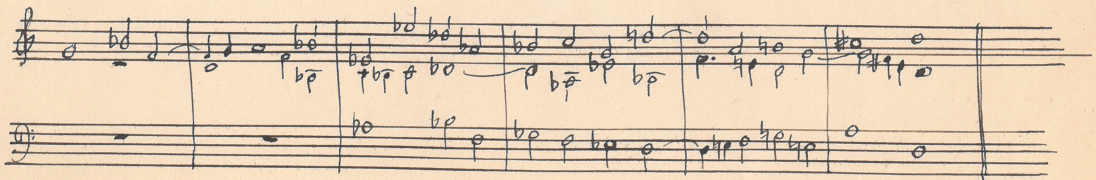
The following example is made up in order to demonstrate the principle and is an extreme case the like of which would be hardly found in the literature:



Correction of the faulty tritones (—) leads to the following:



or:



18. Palestrina, Lasso, Victoria (16th cent.)

1. Italian: Giovanni Pierluigi, called da Palestrina, after the place of his origin, a small town near Rome. 1526-1594. From 1551 until his death employed in various capacities with the church choirs at the Vatican, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Peter in Rome.

His teachers were Flemish composers, living in Rome.

1562 the Council of Trent (see...) took up the reform of the ecclesiastical music. The Missa Papae Marcelli (written 1555) has nothing to do with that, contrary to the legend. P. participated in the revision of Plain Chant ordered by one of the popes of the period.

P. left about 700 works (94 masses, 350 motets, 42 lamentations, 130 other sacred works, 140 madrigals, etc.)

[Complete works in 33 vol.;  
(Missa Papae Marcelli;  
Masses and Motets in  
"Examples..." Eastman school  
of Music; in Hamline U. Library  
Jeppesen, Counterpoint)

2. Flemish: Roland de Lassus, usually Orlando di Lasso 1530 (Mons [Bergen, Belgium) - 1594 (Munich, Bavaria) Studied in Italy, settled in Antwerp. 1556 appointed as director of music at the court of the Prince Elector of Bavaria. In later years several tours to Italy and France. Polyglot and international. L. left about 1200 works [41 masses, 160 sacred, 470 secular compositions etc.]. A collection of 516 was published after his death under the title "Magnum Opus Musicum"

[Complete Works edition in progress.  
Penitential Psalm, No. 5, in  
Photostatic Copy, Hamline U.  
Library.]

3. Spanish: Tomás Luis de Victoria 1535 (Avila) - 1611 (Madrid) Contemporary of St. Teresa of Avila. Ordained priest. 1556-1580 at the Collegium Germanicum in Rome (founded by Ignatius of Loyola [Jesuit; as agency of the counter-reformation). From 1580 chaplain of the Empress dowager Maria in Madrid. V. left 180 works, all religious.

[Complete works; Requiem of 1603  
on Hamline Microfilms;

# 19. The 16th Century Style. Glareanus.

Perfect balance of all elements. Poise and elegance are the main objectives, expressive power and originality are admitted only inasfar as they do not disturb the former. Complete and strict regulation of the treatment of dissonances. Dissonances are: Second, Fourth, Seventh, and all diminished intervals. The Franconian Law (see...) is the governing principle. Dissonances on accented beats must be a) prepared (Tied over from the previous unaccented beat) and b) resolved (stepwise down on the next unaccented beat). The sharp dissonances (major seventh, minor second) occur very rarely, if at all. In the melody stepwise motion prevails, skips are comparatively rare and always carefully balanced by stepwise motion. In regard to rhythm, the irregularity and complexity of the 15th century gives way to an over-all pulsation of alternating beats. This development makes possible, and even causes, the complete rationalization of the treatment of dissonances. The triad emerges definitely as the standard consonant combination. In cadences the finalis is from below always approached by a half-tone step, so that the leading tones are always raised when necessary. Melodies exceed frequently the original ambitus of a mode. The forthcoming transition to harmonic orientation is foreshadowed in treating the lowest part as if it were a progression of roots of chords. The dominant-tonic function, however, is not yet realized fully, the plagal cadence still prevailing.

This style is most perfectly embodied in Palestrina, to the extent of becoming mannerified. Orlando di Lasso is somewhat freer in rhythm and dissonance treatment under the influence of secular music, Victoria more imaginative in using dissonances through his desire for heightened expressive intensity.

The premises of this style are fully analysed in the Dodekachordon by the Swiss theorist Glareanus (Heinrich Loris, of Glarus), published 1547 in Basle, with copious examples from Josquin de Prés and other contemporary composers. He is the first to establish the complete system of 12 (6 auth. & 6 plagal) modes, by adding the Ionian and the Aeolian, which are the only ones that would survive the era of the modal idiom, in the form of the major and minor modes.

[Jeppesen, Counterpoint;  
A.T. Merritt, 16th century  
Counterpoint;

20. The End of Modal Polyphony and the Rise of Tonality.

a) Organic Evolution: Monteverdi

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 Cremona-1643 Venice).

Over a period of several decades, his madrigals show an increasingly liberal interpretation of the principles laid down by the polyphonic composers of the 16th century (unprepared dissonances, resolution into perfect consonances, increasing use of *musica ficta*, more conscious exploitation of the Dominant-Tonic cadence). For these innovations he was severely criticized by <sup>the</sup> ~~Casson~~ Artusi of Bologna. He defended his practice by referring to the new expressive tendencies in music rather than with theoretical arguments, the concept of modern tonality not yet being ready for theoretical foundation. (first "man-to-man" controversy between composer and critic in the history). If the typical "key-feeling" of later tonality is not yet realized in this period, it is due to an over-abundant use of Dominant-Tonic progressions, so that no one prevails enough in order to establish one specific key.

The ultimate victory of tonal harmony over modal polyphony is brought about through the ascent of the operatic style ("monody": one dominating melody performed by a solo voice and supported by an accompaniment of chords). Monteverdi's first opera: *Orfeo* (1607), after opera had come into being in 1600 as a result of the endeavors of the Camerata, a learned society in Florence, to revive the Greek tragedy.

b) Irrational Interlude: Gesualdo

Carlo Gesualdo, Prince of Venosa (about 1550-about 1615)

An Italian nobleman of whose life is little known except that he had his wife murdered. His madrigals show a lack of restraint in the use of chromaticism out of any proportion to the known practice of the period. Thus he achieves an almost expressionistic violence of emotional characterisation. Theoretically he anticipates a state of the tonal idiom reached again only in the late 19th century.

(Over)

Monteverdi, Madrigals and  
"Il Ballo delle Ingrate" on  
Hamline microfilms;  
Gesualdo, Madrigals on  
Hamline microfilms;