

Medieval Music Handbook Project

MUSC 327: Music History I

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PROJECT OVERVIEW I

- ◆ The year is 1200. The place is the great Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.
- ◆ You are the Director of the Cathedral Choir and must teach your choir the new practice of singing together, called *organum*.
- ◆ To facilitate the teaching and learning of organum, you must create a *Musica Enchiriadis*, or Music Handbook, in which you explain and illustrate the early types of polyphony.



PROJECT CONTENT Instructional Pages

- ◆ Include five instructional pages, one on each style of early organum.
- ◆ These include parallel, mixed oblique and parallel, free, discant & florid.
- ◆ Each page should include a written explanation and a notated musical example.
- ◆ The notated examples should be based on your own settings of "Kyrie."



PROJECT GRADING

- ◆ This project is worth 100 points for each group member and will be graded using a rubric.
- ◆ Handbooks will be graded on historical content, musical content, creative "illumination," and participation.
- ◆ NOTE: *All group members are expected to contribute equally to the project.*
- ◆ A self-evaluation of individual and group participation will be used for grading purposes.
- ◆ Group members who contribute little or nothing to the project cannot earn a passing grade.

PROJECT OVERVIEW II



- ◆ Your handbook will be presented in the medieval style of "illuminating" manuscripts or treatises.
- ◆ Examples of projects from previous semesters will be shown in class, so you get a clearer sense of how the finished handbook might look.
- ◆ NOTE: This is a group project. A list of assigned groups will be distributed separately.

PROJECT CONTENT "Illumination" & Artwork



- ◆ "Illuminate" the cover and individual pages of the handbook with drawings, artwork, color, or other visual enhancements.
- ◆ See pages 42 and 63 of the textbook for examples of "illuminated" manuscripts.
- ◆ This is your chance to be creative and artistic!

Music Handbook Rubric

| Performance Area | A | B | C | D/F | Score |
|--|--|---|---|--|-------|
| Historical & Musical Content 30 points | Includes all required historical information and musical examples. Content is always accurate, specific, and relevant to the topic. | Includes most required historical information and musical examples. Content is usually accurate, specific, and relevant to the topic. | Includes some required historical information and musical examples. Content is sometimes accurate, specific, and relevant to the topic. | Includes little or no required historical information and musical examples. Content is rarely or never accurate, specific, and relevant to the topic. | |
| Creative "Illumination" 70 points | "Illuminates" the handbook with numerous drawings, artwork, color, or other visual elements. Always done in the style of the historical period. Always demonstrates an attention to neatness and detail. | "Illuminates" the handbook with several drawings, artwork, color, or other visual elements. Usually done in the style of the historical period. Sometimes demonstrates an attention to neatness and detail. | "Illuminates" the handbook with a few drawings, artwork, color, or other visual elements. Sometimes done in the style of the historical period. Rarely or never demonstrates an attention to neatness and detail. | "Illuminates" the handbook with no drawings, artwork, color, or other visual elements. Rarely or never done in the style of the historical period. Rarely or never demonstrates an attention to neatness and detail. | |
| Participation 50 points <i>Based on information from the project self-evaluation.</i> | demonstrates a collaborative attitude. Always willing to do more than an equal share of the work. Always demonstrates reliability & dependability. | demonstrates a collaborative attitude. Sometimes willing to do more than an equal share of the work. Usually demonstrates reliability & dependability. | demonstrates a collaborative attitude. Seldom willing to do more than an equal share of the work. Sometimes demonstrates reliability & dependability. | Rarely or never demonstrates a collaborative attitude. Not willing to do an equal share of the work. Rarely or never demonstrates reliability & dependability. | |

Project Content

Cover

- ◆ The pages of the handbook should be bound (or in a binder) so there are front and back covers.
- ◆ The front cover should have a title and list the "authors" of the handbook.
- ◆ Each group member should create a fictitious name that captures the spirit of the Middle Ages and is well suited for a project on early polyphony.

Introductory Page

- ◆ Provide a general definition of "organum" and explain the terms associated with it.
- ◆ Explain the historical roots of organum in improvisation and describe the early written sources on early polyphony
- ◆ These include the *Musica Enchiriadis*, *Ad organum faciendum*, and *Magnus liber organi*.

PROJECT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ◆ Department Level: *The student will be able to*
 - ◆ Place music in historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts.
 - ◆ Distinguish the major eras of music history.
- ◆ Course Level: *The student will be able to*
 - ◆ Place music of the Ancient-Medieval Worlds, Renaissance, and Baroque in historical, cultural and stylistic contexts.

PROJECT SELF EVALUATION

- ◆ Evaluate *your work* in terms of collaborative attitude, reliability, time and effort put forth, sharing of responsibilities, and quality of work.
- ◆ Evaluate the work of *your group partner(s)* in terms of collaborative attitude, reliability, time and effort put forth, sharing of responsibilities, and quality of work.
- ◆ What did you learn from this project?
- ◆ How could this learning experience be improved?