



Early Music

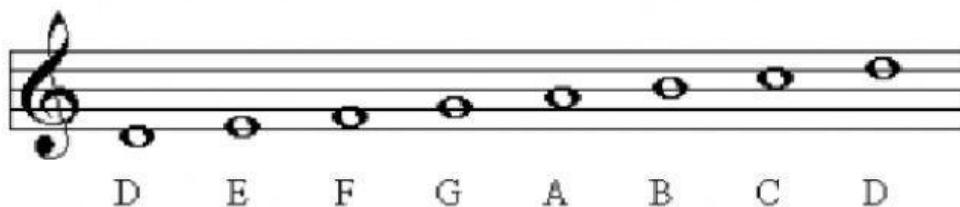
Plainchant

The earliest music that we know, both sacred and secular, consists of a single line melody. This is a monophonic texture.

Examples of this can be found in early church music, in the form of **plainchant** (also known as **plainsong** or **Gregorian chant**). **Plainchant** melodies were generally flowing, often moving by **step** rather than by **leap**, and would be sung in an **a cappella** style (i.e. **unaccompanied**).

The rhythm would be **irregular** and very **free**, following the natural **rhythms** and **stresses** of the **Latin** words.

Plainchant melodies were based on special types of scales called **modes**. **Modes** can be found by playing any notes within an octave, but keeping to the white notes only. Here is an example of a **mode**:



Here is an example of a simple **plainchant** melody, dating from about the year 800:

Mainly Syllabic	Major	Modal	A cappella
Mainly melismatic	Polyphonic	Triplets	Unison



Choose 4 relevant concepts from the box above and write them in the correct categories on the table below.

Melody	Harmony	Texture	Timbre

Sacred Music in the Renaissance period

Composers throughout history have written sacred music. In the Renaissance period sacred music was generally sung in Latin and performed **a cappella** (without instrumental accompaniment). It often contained some of the following features:

Melodic	Harmonic	Rhythmic	Structural
Imitation	Consonance	Simple time	Contrary motion
Melisma	Dissonance	Rallentando	Pedal
Mode	Modal		Inverted pedal
Plainchant	Suspension Passing notes Plagal cadence		Polyphony Homophony

The most important forms of sacred music in the **Renaissance** period were the **Mass**, **Motet** and **Anthem**.

Mass

The **Mass** is the chief service of the Catholic Church. The Latin setting of the Mass divides into five main sections, or "items":

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison	Lord have mercy, Christ Have mercy
Gloria in excelsis Deo	Glory to God in the highest
Credo in unum deum	I believe in one God
Sanctus; Osanna; Benedictus	Holy, holy, holy; Hosanna; Blessed is he....
Agnus Dei	Lamb of God

Motet

The **Motet** is a short sacred choral work, usually contrapuntal in style, with a Latin text. Here are some examples of texts used for motets:

Veni Sancte Spiritus	Come, Holy Spirit
Haec Dies	This is the day
Ave Maria	Hail Mary
Jubilate Deo	Be Joyful in the Lord
O quam gloriosam est regnum	O How Glorious is the Kingdom
Ave Verum Corpus	Hail, True Body
O Magnum Mysterium	O Great and Mighty Wonder

Anthem

The **Anthem** is a short sacred choral piece sung in English. It may be sung **a cappella** or with organ accompaniment. Examples of Anthems include:

*I Will Exalt Thee
Teach Me O Lord
Sing Joyfully Unto God*



Sacred Music – Revision of Concepts

(a) Tick **four** boxes to identify the titles of movements you would expect to find in a *Mass*.

Kyrie eleison	Veni Sancte Spiritus
Exsultate Deo	Sanctus
Credo	For unto us a child is born
Ave Maria	Agnus Dei

(b) Tick **four** features you would expect to find in a *Mass* from the *Renaissance* period.

Pavan	Modal
A cappella	Basso continuo
Susensions	Polyphonic
Polytonality	Passacaglia

(c) Complete the table below by inserting in the correct concept alongside the brief description given

Description	Concept
A large-scale choral work in five main sections, usually sung in Latin, being the chief service of the Roman Catholic church.	
A short unaccompanied choral piece sung in Latin.	
A short sacred choral piece sung in English. It may be sung a cappella or with organ accompaniment.	
Unaccompanied modal melody set to the words of the Roman Catholic liturgy.	

3. a) Follow the melody below and tick the correct box to fill the missing notes in bar 5

?



(b) Tick **three** features present in the music.

Plagal cadence

Tritone

Mode

Turn

Three against two

Susensions

Time changes

Acciaccatura

Mordent

(c) Tick **one** box to identify the type of work this music is from.

Anthem

Mass

Motet

Chorale

(d) Tick **one** box to identify the period or style of this music.

Renaissance

Romantic

Baroque

20th century

Classical



This question is based on “*O quam gloriosem est regnum*” by Victoria.

Listen to the music 3 times and answer all questions 1-3

1. (a) Tick **one** box to identify the combination of performers.

Choir and organ

Solo voice and organ

Choir and strings

Unaccompanied choir

(b) Tick **one** box to describe the voices.

The voices are singing in unison

The voices are singing in harmony

2 (a) In the first phrase there are two contrasting textures used. Tick **one** box from **Column A** to identify the texture of the bars 1-4 and **one** box from **Column B** to identify the texture in bars 5-9.

Column A

Single line melody

Column B

Single line melody

Homophonic

Homophonic

Polyphonic

Polyphonic

(b) Tick **one** box to identify a feature of the performance.

Arco

Glissando

A cappella

Tremolando

(c) Tick **one** feature to describe the time signature of this piece.

Simple duple

Simple quadruple

Simple triple

Compound duple

3. a) Follow the melody below and tick the correct box to fill the missing notes in bar 5

?

(b) Tick **three** features present in the music.

Change to compound time

Syncopation

Whole-tone scale

Mordent

Hemiola

Retrograde

Tierce de picardie

Imitation

Melisma

(c) Tick **one** box to identify the type of work this music is from.

Anthem

Mass

Motet

Chorale

(d) Tick **one** box to identify the period or style of this music.

Renaissance

Romantic

Baroque

20th century

Classical