

EXPLANATION 1.10: ARS NOVA

1. THE 13th CENTURY: Ars Antiqua.

The 13th century saw the birth of cities, universities, the great Gothic cathedrals, the great medieval pictorial and literary works, and the motet in music. The 13th century, in music, is the "classic" period of the Middle Ages known as Ars Antiqua. Music theory was also developed thanks to two musicians:

- Franco de Colonia: his contribution is on the duration of the notes, that is visible with the written notes (not like gregorian neumes). His works are known as Franconian motets. This is published in his treatise *Ars Cantus Mensurabilis* of 1260, in the middle of the thirteenth century.
- Petrus de Cruce, at the end of the 13th century, makes other contributions, such as inventing a system of notation similar to the current one. His works are known as Petronian motets.

2. THE 14th CENTURY: Ars Nova.

In the 14th century wars and epidemics took place. Also, Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks marking for many historians the end of the Middle Ages. In music there are important changes, especially in relation to rhythm, when a type of motete called isorhythmic motet arised. In them, the composer uses rhythmic patterns, called "talea", that he repeats throughout the entire work. Several taleas form a melody sung by the tenor voice. This melody, which is a succession of taleas, is called "color".

In the musical aspect it is emphasized the new musical notation, the three voice polyphony with instruments, and the motet. The motet is not exclusively sacred and is also a public art linked to events, celebrations, conflicts or aspects on political and religious important personages. In music, motets tend to a single language, either French or Latin, but not in both at the same time.

3. TRATADOS MUSICALES DEL ARS NOVA

Around 1320 two musical treatises of great importance appeared. With them, musical composition would be completely different from then on. The treaties are:

"Ars nove musice", by Johannes de Muris.

"Ars nova", by Philippe de Vitry. This last treatise is the most important one because it established great changes in the way musical rhythms were written.

4. THE COLLECTIONS: THE ROMAN DE FAUVEL THE IVREA CODEX

Two collections stand out and have preserved the music of the 14th century:

1. The Roman de Fauvel: it is a satirical poem that makes mockery of kings, popes and the society of the time. The poem has more than 3000 verses among which are interspersed musical works of various types, hence its importance, such as:
 - Liturgical chants in Latin: alleluyas, hymns, responsorial chants and antiphons.
 - 34 Motets: with 4 voices (1), with 3 voices (23), with two voices (10). One of them attributed to Machault, the most important composer of the 14th century.
 - Songs in French: lais, rondeaux, ballades, virelais, sayings and burlesque songs.
2. The Ivrea Codex (Ivrea is a city near Turin in Italy), is a book in which there are more than 80 anonymous works in which there are:
 - Isorhythmic motets (almost half of them).
 - 21 Latin motets
 - 14 motets in French.
 - 2 motets with texts in Latin and French.
 - Movements of the mass.

- Profane songs: rondeaux, balades, virelais, canons and chaces ("hunts." They are similar to the canon, they are called that because the voices are "chased").
- Some works of Machault.

5. OTHER COMPOSERS: Italy.

The secular musical forms most used by composers were madrigals (14th century madrigal) the caccia and the ballata. Some composers of this period were:

First generation:

1. Maestro Piero
2. Jacopo da Bologna
3. Giovanni da Firenze
4. Gherardello da Firenze

Second generation:

1. Francesco Landini
2. Nicolò da Perugia
3. Bartolino da Padova
4. Andrea da Firenze
5. Paolo Tenorista

6. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What arise in the 13th century in music?
2. What is the contribution of Franco from Cologne?
3. What are composers of isorhythmic motets repeating?
4. What is the difference between "talea" and "color"?
5. Name the three most outstanding musical aspects of the 14th century.
6. What is the most important musical treatise of the 14th century and what was the name of its author?
7. Why is the poem Roman de Fauvel so important in music history?
8. What types of non-religious works does the Roman de Fauvel contain?
9. Who is the most important composer of the 14th century?
10. Name two religious and two profane musical forms of the Ivrea Codex.
11. Name 2 composers of each generation of the trecento (the 14th century) in Italy.