

TROUBADOURS, CONTINUED:  
EARLY POLYPHONY THROUGH TO LEONIN

1. Sext
2. Peter Munstedt, Librarian of the Lewis Music Library, Introduction
3. Troubadours and Trouvères
  - a. Part of the Medieval tradition of *fin amours* (or *fin'amors*): refined love or courtly love
    - i. This is the Middle Ages of popular imagination: chivalry, jousting, feasts, minstrels, unrequited love.
    - ii. Poetry has endless variations on the theme of love from a lower/middle class man (or even a knight) for “the lady” – usually the wife of the Lord; often told in a poet’s *vida* (stylized biography)
    - iii. Less often, but not rarely: unrequited love of a lower/middle class woman (trobaritz or trobairitz) for a nobleman.
    - iv. First important major literary collections in the vernacular
    - v. All were probably sung, but not all survive with melodies. Only 10% of troubadour songs have surviving melodies (and sadly, exactly one by a trobaritz) and 2/3 of the (later) trouvère songs.
  - b. Rhythm and Secular Music
    - i. Rule #1: Don’t go there!
  - c. Instruments and Secular Music
    - i. Rule #1: Don’t go there!
    - ii. Rule #2: Try a drone
    - iii. Rule #3: Some random notes plucked on a harp or a lute between verses sound good.
4. Three troubadour pieces:
  - a. Bernart de Ventadorn, *Can vei la lauzeta mover*. (c. 1160–70; troubadour)
  - b. Beatriz de Dia, *A chantar m’er* (c. 1175—the only surviving trobaritz melody)
  - c. Raimbaut de Vaqueiras, *Kalenda Maya* (borrowed “estampida”)
5. Other traditions
  - a. Italy: extension of the troubadours
  - b. Germany: *Minnesinger* (creators of *Minnesang*)
  - c. Spain: *cantigas*
6. **Early Polyphony**
7. Theoretical sources and prehistory
  - a. *Musica enchiriadis* (Music Handbook) c. 890: teaches improvised polyphony on the spot
    - i. Sing a new voice (*vox organalis*) in parallel below the chant (*vox principalis*) at the fourth (or perhaps the fifth)
    - ii. Either of the voices, *organalis* or *principalis*, may be doubled an octave up.

**For Thursday: Paper Due**

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21M.220 Early Music  
Fall 2010

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.