

Music History Lecture Notes

Antiquity & Mythology

18,000 BC – 146 BC

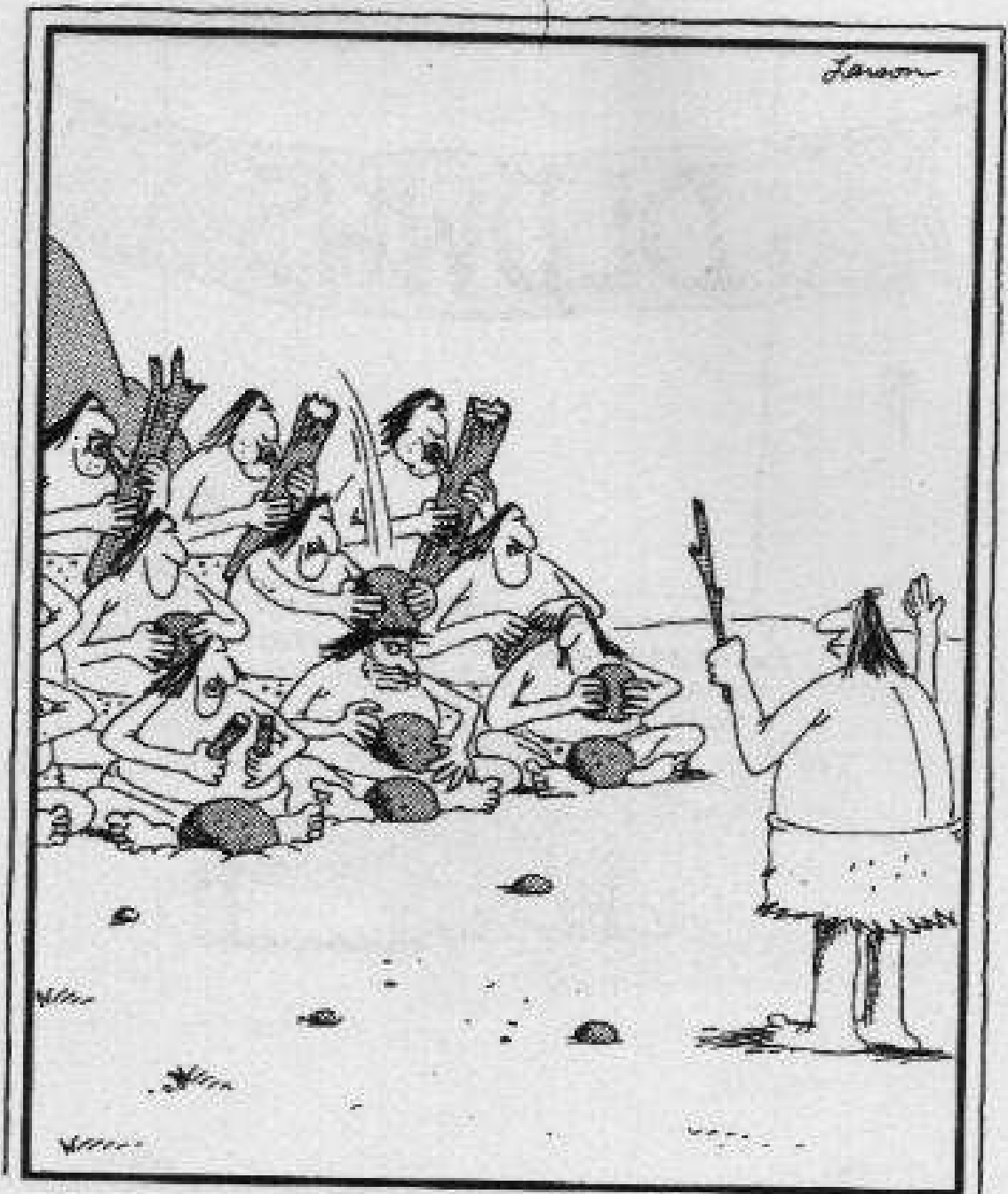
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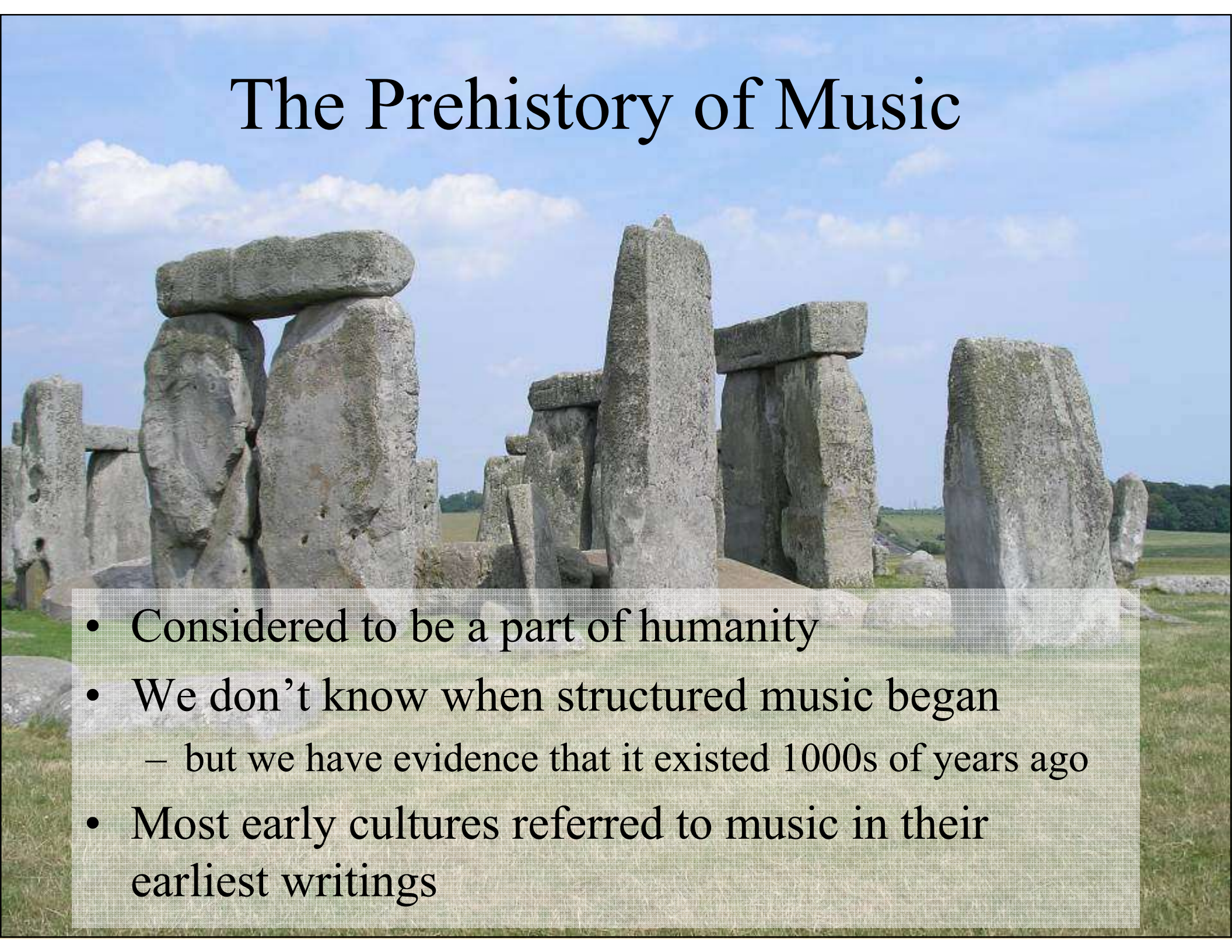
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The Earliest Music



Suddenly, second-chair granite rock's jealousy of first-chair granite rock becomes uncontainable.

The Prehistory of Music

- 
- A photograph of the Stonehenge megalithic monument in England. The large, grey, rectangular stones are arranged in a circular pattern on a grassy field under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The stones are of varying heights and are stacked in some places.
- Considered to be a part of humanity
 - We don't know when structured music began
 - but we have evidence that it existed 1000s of years ago
 - Most early cultures referred to music in their earliest writings

The Prehistory of Music

Note Taking Tips!

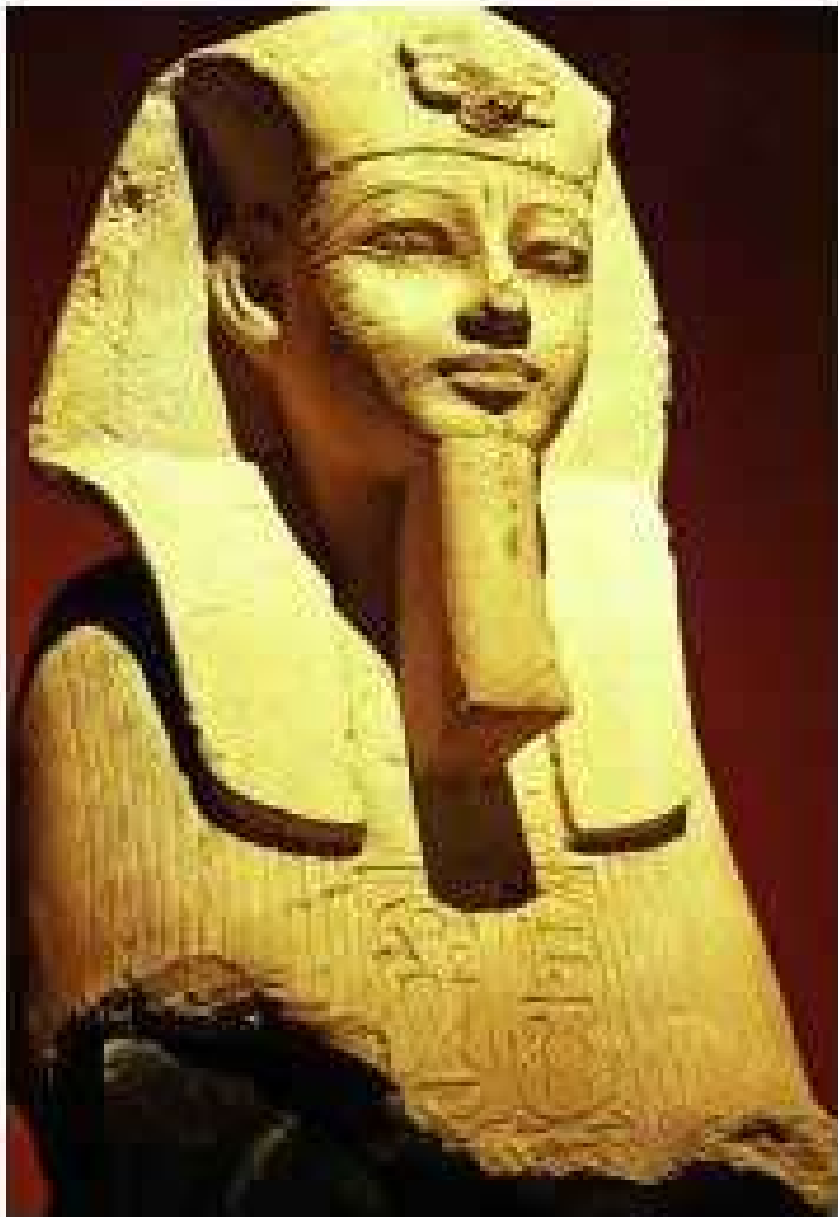
You don't have to write every single word.

Use abbreviations for commonly used words

- Considered to be a part of humanity
- We don't know when structured music began
 - but we have evidence that it existed 1000s of years ago
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Origins of Music in Antiquity

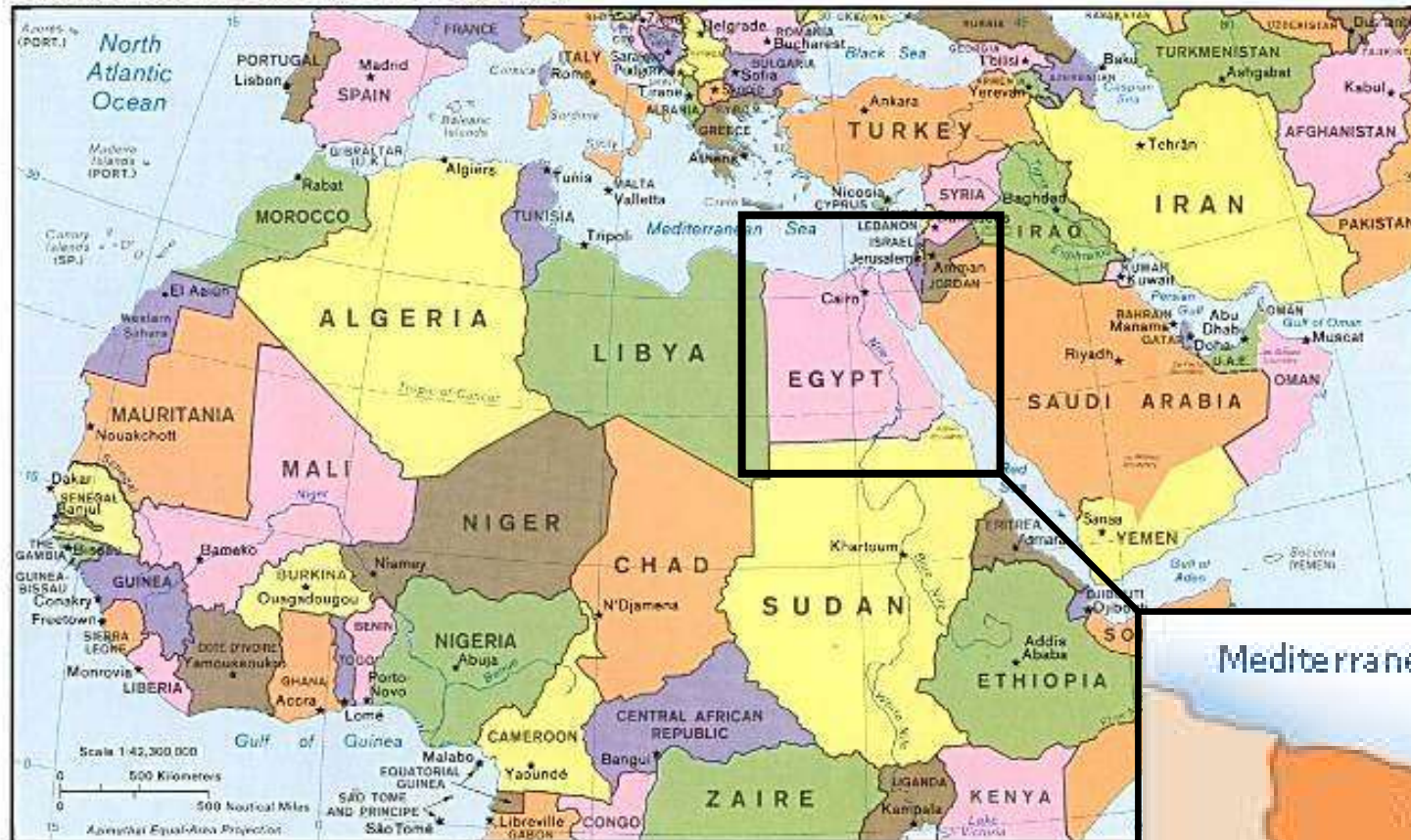
- by accident or divinely inspired
- pan-cultural (across many cultures)
- associated with supernatural, religion, medicine, fertility
- Possibly as early as 18,000 BC
- 3000 BC music notation in Hebrew scrolls
- Understandable notation from Hurians in 1400 BC



Ancient Egyptian Music

- Proof of music during the Pharonic periods
 - Probably was around much earlier
- Professional Musicians held many posts
 - Temple, palace, battlefield

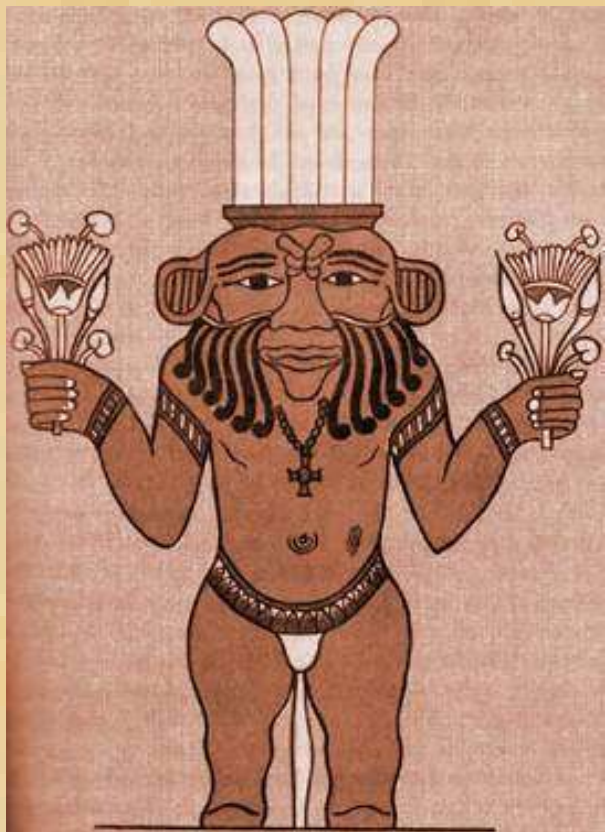
Northern Africa and the Middle East



gods of music designate importance

- Associated with music, dance, & fertility

Bes – god



Hathor - goddess



Music in Egyptian Mythology

- Ihy & Thoth invented music and preside over musicians



- Osiris was named the “fair sistrum player”



Egyptian Musicians

- Shemayet
 - Musician to a specific god
 - Highest post a musician could hold
 - Often held by women
- Harpists and singers in Pharaoh's service
- Entertainers
- Amateurs were not encouraged to pursue music





Ancient Hebrew Music

- Jewish culture has over 4000 years of written history
- influenced cultures throughout the region
 - Egypt
 - Ethiopia
 - Middle East

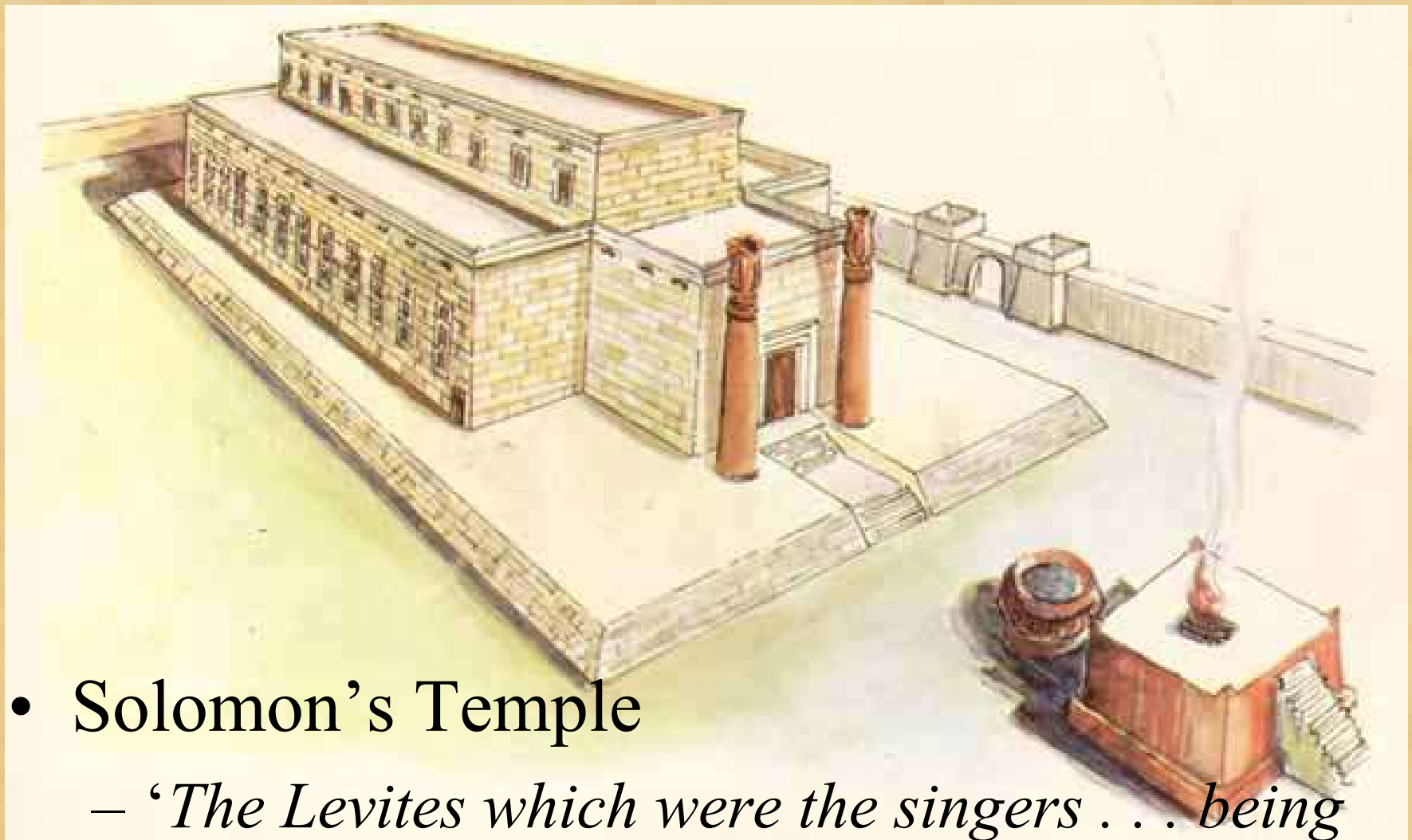
Stories of Music in the Ancient Scrolls

- Laban and Jacob (First Biblical Reference)
 - *Wherefore didst thou . . . not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret and with harp'*



- Moses escaping Egypt
 - the vividly descriptive Song of Moses, sung by the children of Israel to the accompaniment of Miriam's dancing and timbrel playing, upon the shore of the Red Sea





- Solomon's Temple

- *‘The Levites which were the singers . . . being arrayed in fine linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets’*

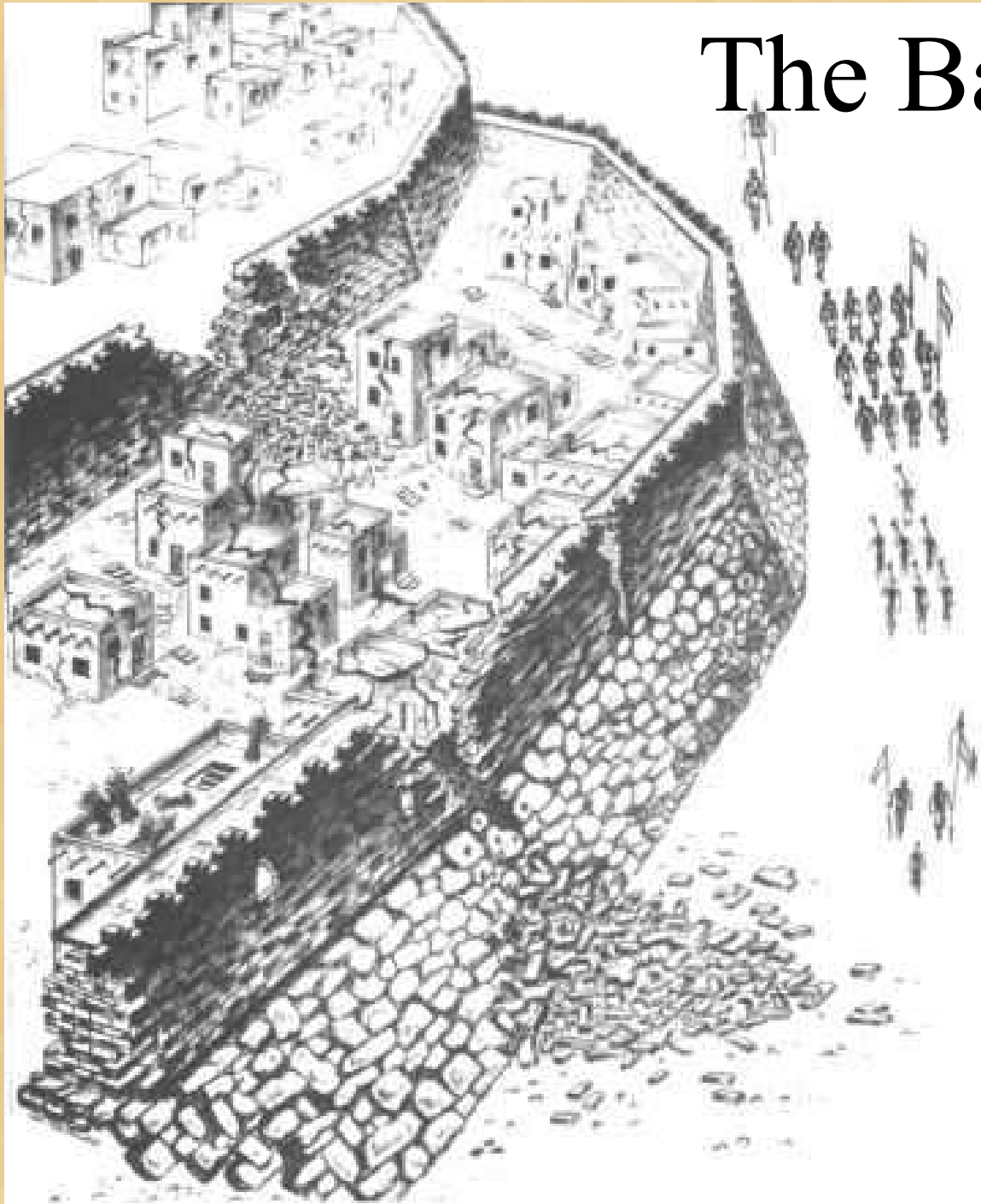


The Tribe of Musicians

- Of the 12 tribes of Israel one is set aside as priestly musicians
- The Levites
 - Of 38,000 Levites, David designated 5000 as his musicians



The Battle of Jericho



Ancient Hebrew Notation



- Reading of the Law had to be memorized
 - No marks allowed on these scrolls
 - Passed down by Aural tradition
- Other scrolls contain special markings above the text



Research Considerations

- In the study of ancient times, very little can be certain
- Logical guesses based on multiple information sources
- Look for confirmation, be ware of assumptions
- Scientific methods of dating are not entirely accurate
- New assumptions based on old assumptions



Ancient Greece

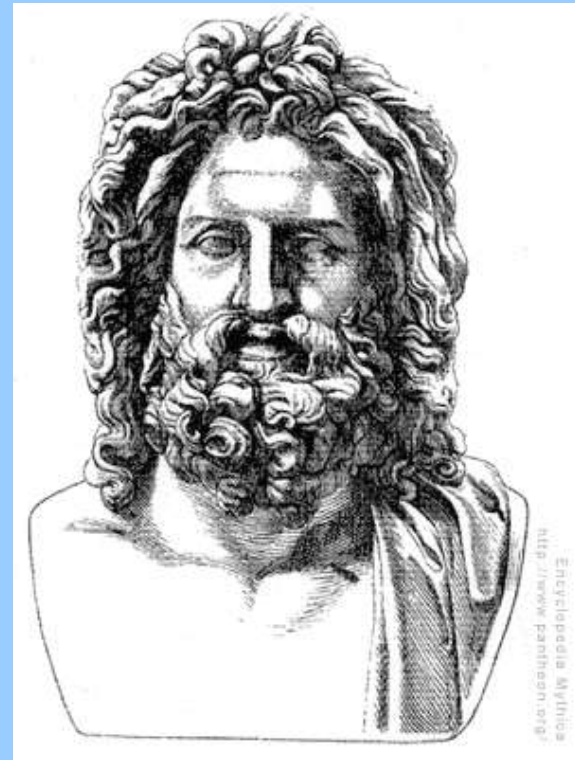


The Ancient Greeks

- The first human society to have structured schools
- Believed music, mathematics and science were all connected
- Polytheistic Society (many gods)
- Myths
 - Stories about these gods and extraordinary humans
 - Stories to educate and explain

Major Players

- Titans
- Zeus & Hera
- Apollo & Diana
- Hades and Persephone
- Poseidon
- Prometheus



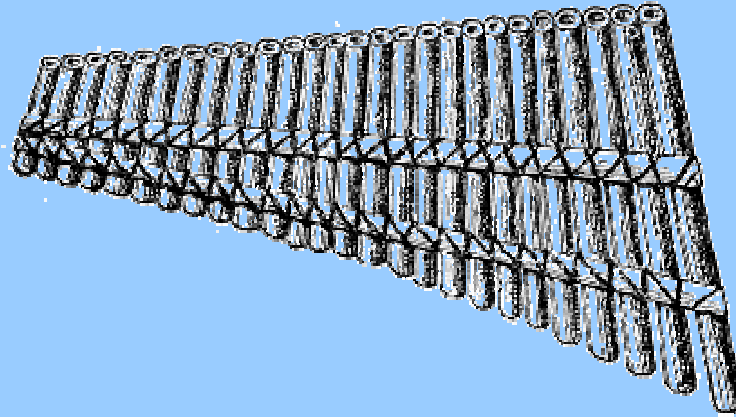
Music in Greek Mythology

- Believed music was from the gods
- Believed music had supernatural powers
 - Healing
 - Purify the body & mind
 - Miracles
- Music Myths
 - Apollo & the Muses
 - Pan
 - Orpheus

Apollo & The Muses

- 9 muses - goddesses of literature, art, science & music
 - Etymology of word music
- Apollo guarded the muses and plays the lyre





Characters:

- Pan
- Mercury
- Apollo
- Syrinx
- King Midas



A. Becklin 1827-1901: Pan, die Syrinx blasend. Photo © Maray Pörlög - ONL



Orpheus


Main Characters:

Eurydice, Hades



Minor Characters:

- Zeus & Calliope
- The Priest
- Charon (the Ferryman)
- Cerberus (3 headed dog)
- Ixion, Tantalus,
Prometheus
- The Voice of Doubt
- The Thracians



Pen-Pal

Dear Intergalactic Pen-Pal

Thank you for your last letter. Boy, your planet sure sounds cold. On my planet, most days it doesn't drop below 260 degrees. I was hoping you could help me with a school project we're working on here on my planet. We have been studying Earth myths in our foreign language class. We don't have anything like myths on our planet and I had some questions.

Are Earth myths true? Why did the ancient Earthlings make them up? Do you know a myth about music you could tell me? Thanks again for your help. I look forward to your next letter.



Your space friend,

Greek Instruments

- Lyre was invented by Hermes (Mercury)
- Kithara – Bass Lyre



- Aulos was used in worship of Dionysus (AKA Diana, Artemis)
 - Accompanied Greek drama and Bacchus celebrations



Pythagoras and the Hammers



Pythagoras and the Hammers



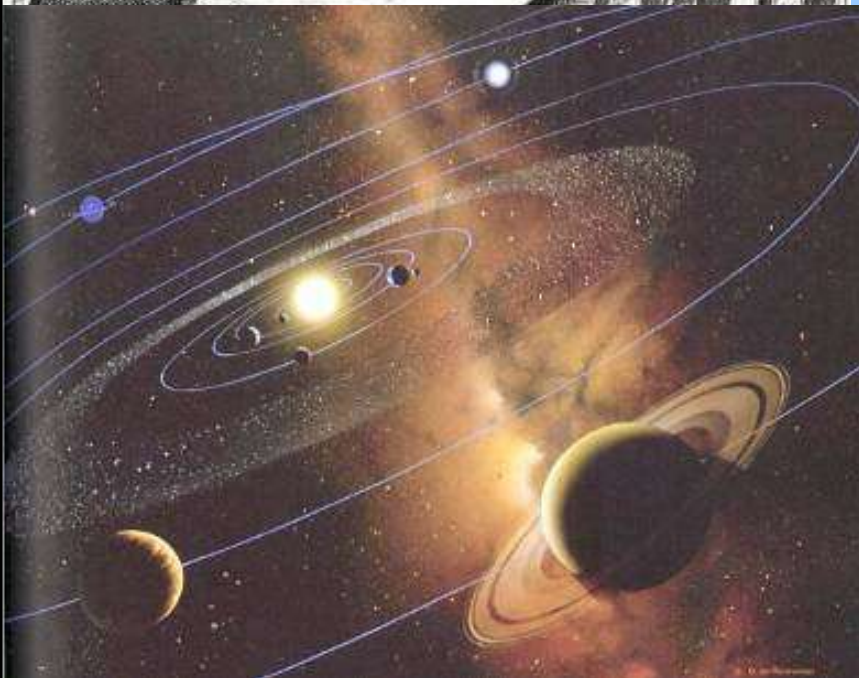
Check your note-taking!

Are you copying every word or are you being selective?

- Passing by a blacksmith's shop
- Heard pleasing consonances from the hammers on the anvils
- Is it the strength of the men?
- Trade hammers
- Is it the weight of the hammers?
- The instruments determine the consonance



Pythagoras overhearing the blacksmiths, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich.



- Ptolemy
 - “Mathematical laws were thought to underlie the systems both of musical intervals and of the heavenly bodies, and certain modes and even certain notes were believed to correspond with particular planets, their distances from each other, and their movements”



SCHOOL

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IF THE ANCIENT
GREEKS HAD HAD TELEVISION TO
WATCH AND VIDEO
GAMES TO PLAY,
WE WOULDN'T BE
STUCK WITH ALL
THIS STUPID
GEOMETRY.

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1-9
THAVES

Greek Education

- The Greeks were one of the first cultures to have formal schools for the children
- Three elements
 - Body – Gymnastics
 - Mind – Philosophy
 - Soul – Music



Best of Both Worlds

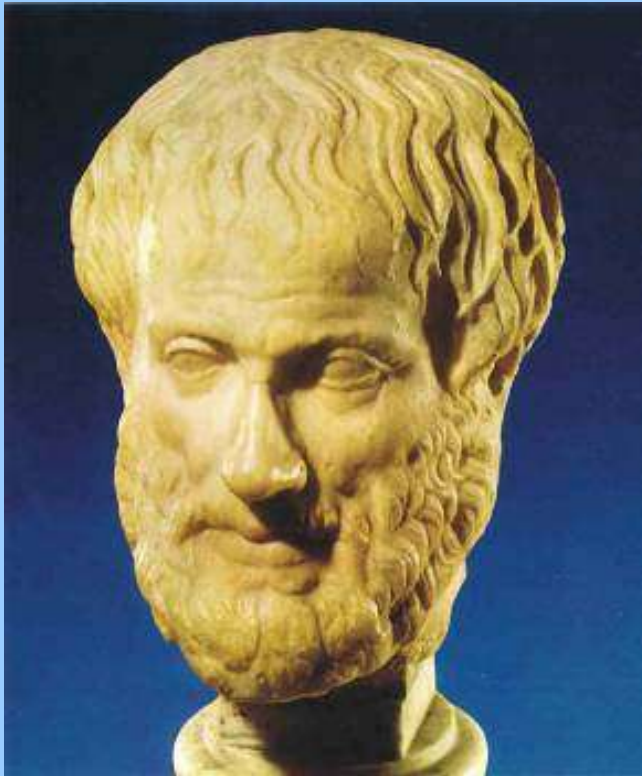
- “He who mingles music with Gymnastics in the fairest proportions, and best accommodates them to the soul, may rightly be called a true musician.” – Plato



- Too much gymnastics makes a man insensitive to beauty, uncivilized, violent and ignorant
- Too much music makes a man effeminate or neurotic

Greek Music in Education

- Music was an integral part of Greek Education
- Minimum of three years required



•“Let the young practice such music as we have prescribed, only until they are able to feel delight in noble melodies and rhythms, and not merely in that common part of music in which every slave or child and even some animals find pleasure.” – Aristotle



Greek uses of music

- accompany plays - chorus and soliloquies would be sung
- competitions - athletic and artistic competitions
- goal of balance - between spiritual, physical and intellectual training
- Term for an uneducated man = a man without music

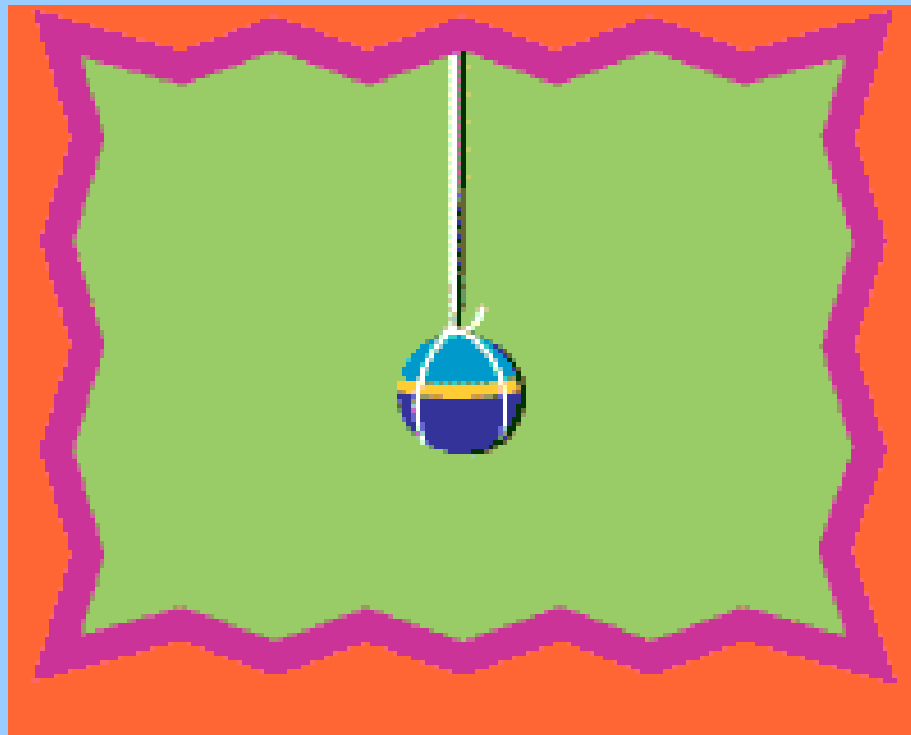


Greek Music

- Inseparable from religious ceremonies
 - Believed it had magical powers
 - Believed it had divine origin
- Cult of Apollo (logic & reason)
 - Lyre (5-7 strings) or Kithara
 - Played alone or to accompany singing or recitation of epic poems
- Cult of Dionysus (passion & pleasure)
 - -Aulos (reed instrument with twin pipes)
 - Played with recitation of poems (dithyrambs)
 - A precursor of Greek drama

Music History's Pendulum

- Throughout music history there is a pendulum through Apollonian (Classical – Intellectual/Rule Based) and Dionysian (Romantic – Emotional/Passion Based) music



Greek Vocal Music

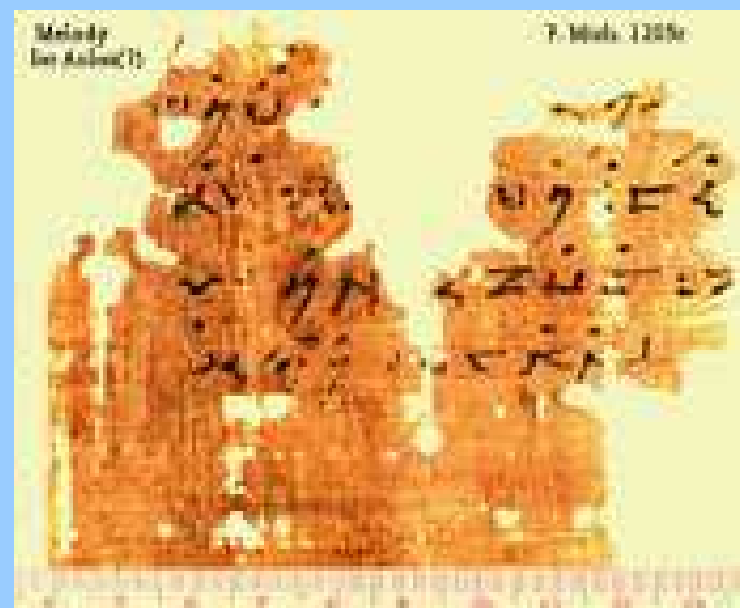
- While music was occasionally instrumental, it almost always had text (over 90%)
- Always monophonic
- Considered the text to be most important
 - Continuous voice (pitches in time with speech)
 - Diastemic (sustained pitches with discrete intervals)
- No word for artful speech without music (poetry)

Greek Instrumental Music

- By 600-700 B.C.E. instruments had become popular as solo instruments
- Around 500 B.C.E. music competitions became more common
- As musicians became more talented the music became more complex
- Music has to be simplified in the Classical Age (350 B.C.E.)
- No Greek instruments exist today

Greek Musical Notation

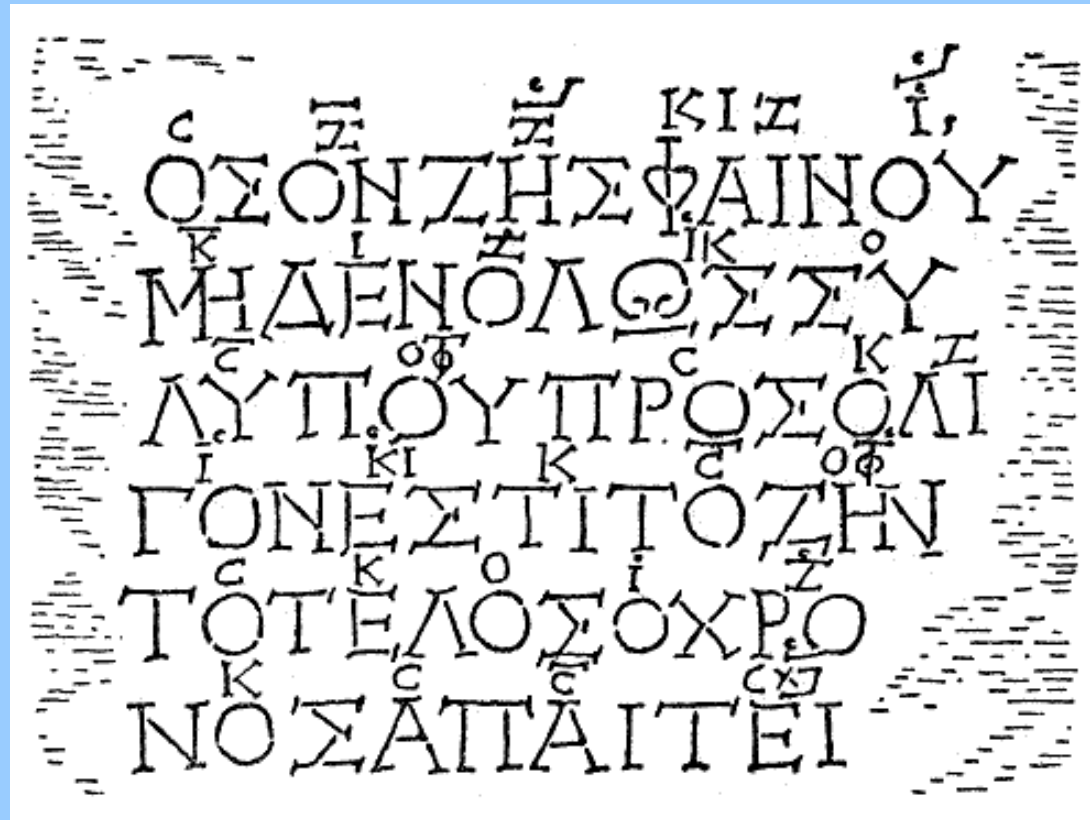
- Aristoxenus (330 B.C.E.)
 - Writes a treatise on music
- 40 examples of Greek music
 - Only 20 verified
 - Only 1 is complete
- Text with marking to indicate
 - Pitch
 - Duration



The Epitaph of Seikilos



Abb. 15/16. Kopenhagen Inv. Nr. 14 897 (= Nr. 18)



While you live, shine
Don't suffer anything at all
Life is short
And time demands its toll

Listening Logs

Piece Name

Epitaph of Seikilos

Composer

Unknown

What you think of the piece:

- What did you hear? (voices, instruments)
- Did it remind of anything? (movie, other music)
- What did it make you think about? (mental images)
- Did you like it or not?

Rating: 1-10

Doctrine of Ethos

- Literally: the moral effect on a human
- Music can affect how a person acts (personality)
- Music imitates emotion – can arouse that emotion
- “Habitual listening to music that rouses ignoble passions distorts a person’s character”
- Music can be used for enjoyment
- In the interest of public welfare certain kinds of music are banned – Constitution of Athens and Sparta

The Roman Revolution

- The Roman empire expands through Greece
 - In 146 BC Greek islands become a Roman province
 - Use of roads and armies
- Integrated Greek culture into their culture
 - Greek gods with Roman Names
 - Greek music also survives



The Roman Empire

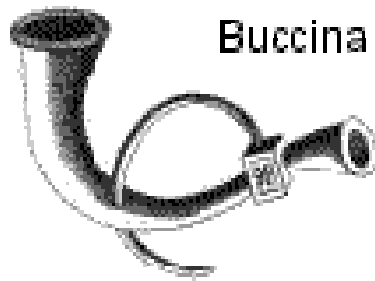


Roman Music

- Romans were cultural borrowers
- The Romans made little contribution to music
 - New instrument technology (dawn of brass)



Cornu

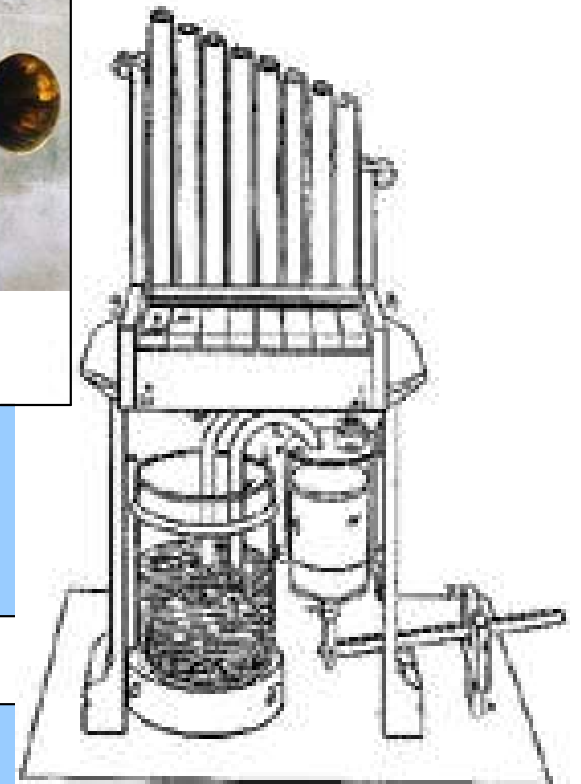


Buccina

Buccina



Tuba



Lots of Drums

- Mostly for military show

Hydraulis - organ run by water

7 items of Ancient Heritage

- Monophony
- Rhythms linked to text
- mostly improvised without notation
- philosophical connections between music and human thought
- scientific acoustic theory *
- scales from tetra chords *
- well developed terminology *
 - * GREEK ONLY

Study Guide

<u>Listening:</u>	Apollo	Cornu
Epitaph of Seikilos	Muses	Hydraulus
<u>People / Characters:</u>	Pan	Origin of Music
Hebrews	Syrinx	Pan-cultural
Hurians	Orpheus	Archeology
Egyptians	Euridice	Polytheism
Bes	Pythagorus	Myth
Hathor	Aristoxenus	Consonance
Osiris	Roman Empire	Octave
Shemayet	<u>Things / Concepts:</u>	Greek Education
Levites	Lyre	Virtuosity
Greeks	Kithara	7 Items of Ancient
Zeus	Epitaph of Seikilos	Heritage
Hades	Doctrine of Ethos	Jericho