SECULAR MUSIC of the MIDDLE AGES

Early Background

- Borderline Sacred Music
  - Conductus (Sacred and Secular)
  - Medieval Latin Songs
    - Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)
      - Abbess of Rupertsberg
  - Secular Music
    - Goliard Songs
    - Carmina Burana
    - Traveling Bands of Musician/Performers
      - jongleurs
      - minstrels

French Monophony

- Troubadours (Trobairitz)
  - Southern France
  - Wrote in Provençal: Langue d’oc
  - 11th-13th Centuries
  - 2600 poems/265 melodies
- Trouvères
  - Northern France
  - Langue d’oil (evolved into Modern French)
  - 12th-14th Centuries
  - 4000 poems/1420 melodies
### Troubadours and Trouvéres

**SONG TYPES**

- **Canso/Chanson**
  - Love Song
- **Pastorela/Pastourelle**
  - Narrative song which depicts a Knight and a Sheperdess
- **Alba/Aube**
  - Morning Song
- **Tenso/Descort**
  - Dispute/Dialogue Song
- **Sirventes**
  - Satirical Song
- **Planh**
  - Song of Lament

### Famous Troubadour/Trouvéres

- Bernart de Ventadorn (1130-1190)
- Adam de Halle (1245-1288)
  - Most famous Trouvére
- Many were Royalty
- Many were Women
  - Trobairitz
- All of this music collected into . . .

  **Chansonniers**

### German Monophony

- **Minnesingers**
  - 12th-14th Century
  - Religious Tinges (Church Modes)
  - Tighter Organization
  - Triple Meter
  - Sober Character
- **Meistersingers**
  - Middle Class Performers
  - 14th-16th Century
  - Belonged to Guilds
Monophonic Song in Other Countries

• Italy
  - Lauda(e)
• Spain
  - Cantigas

Instrumental Music

• Instrumental Music
  - Dances Mostly
  - Improvised
  - Primitive Instruments
    - Early versions of Modern
• Estampie
  - AxAy BxByCx Cy . . . .

General Similarities

• Traits
  - Monophonic
  - Improvised Accompaniment Maybe
  - Triple Meter (some duple in German)
  - Regular Rhythms
  - Short, Clear Phrases
  - Structural Divisions (usually strophic)
  - Modal
  - Vernacular Texts
  - Limited Ranges (< 8va)
  - Variety of Subjects
  - Refrains