

# Glossary:

**Adiastematic neumes (Neumatic Notation):** Neumes which do not provide information about the exact intervals.

**Altera (Mensural Notation):** When there are two breves in front of a longa and the unity of three breves (perfectio) must be fulfilled, the second brevis will be altered: its value will be doubled.

**Brevis:** A note value in the mensural notation.

**Celeriter (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for quickly).

**Clivis (Neumatic Notation):** (Latin for inclined), a group of two descending notes.

**Conjuncturae/ currentes (Modal Notation):** Series of isolated notes of a descending scale which follows a single note or a ligature. It is a way to indicate smaller values in a given modal pattern.

**Diastematic neumes (Neumatic Notation):** Neumes which do provide information about the exact intervals.

**Discantus:** 1. Composition for two, three or four voices based on a liturgical chant melody. 2. After the 15<sup>th</sup> century the highest voice in a polyphonic composition.

**Duplex longa/ Maxima:** The longest note value in the mensural notation.

**Duplum:** Name of the second voice in a polyphonic composition of the Ars Antiqua.

**Episema (Neumatic Notation):** Small stroke which is added to a neume in order to retard the performance.

**Equaliter (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for same pitch).

**Extensio modi (Modal Notation):** Modifying of the rhythmical pattern with larger values (Willi Apel).

**Fractio modi (Modal Notation):** Modifying of the rhythmical pattern with smaller values.

**Graduale:** 1. A chant in a liturgical celebration. 2. A book that contains all proprium chants.

**Gregorian Chant:** Medieval reworking of Roman ecclesiastical songs, originated during Carolingian Period.

**Incipit:** Indicates the beginning note or the beginning group of notes of a voice in the transcription. It is written just before the start of each voice.

**Inferius (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for lower).

**Levare (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for to rise).

**Liquescent forms (Neumatic Notation):** Neumatic notation which arises in singing liquid and sonant consonants and diphthongs to provide a semivocalisation of that consonant as a passing note to the next pitch.

**Litterae significativae (Neumatic notation):** Clarify meaning of the neumes, affecting: rhythm, pitch, manner of execution.

**Longa:** A note value in the mensural notation.

**Mediocriter (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for moderately).

**Melisma:** A syllable of a word is represented by groups of notes.

**Mensural Notation:** A system which enables the encoding of exact rhythmic values in the figures of the notes.

**Modal Notation:** The first system which enables a rhythmic notation in Western music history.

**Motet:** A polyphonic composition based on a chant with a new text in the upper voice.

**Motetus:** The upper voice of a motet which is newly composed and has a new text. (During the Ars Antiqua the Motetus without the new text corresponded to the Duplum).

**Neumatic Notation:** The first system of signs for music notation in the Middle Ages.

**Neumes:** The name of the signs which are used in the neumatic notation. They can be either diastematic or adiaastematic and represent visually the shape and gesture of the melody.

**Ordo (Modal Notation):** Musical phrase/ unit in the modal notation.

**Perfectio (Mensural Notation):** A threefold temporal unit.

**Pes (Neumatic Notation):** (Latin for foot/ step), a group of two ascending notes.

**Plica (Modal Notation):** Decorates notes while inserting a shorter note value into the rhythmical flow.

**Pressionem (Neumatic Notation):** Significative letter (Latin for driving forward).

**Quilisma (Neumatic Notation):** Ornamental neume, the meaning is unclear, probably it stands for a special, tremulous quality of the voice.

**Semibrevis:** A note value in the mensural notation.

**Scriptorium:** Room in a monastery where manuscripts were copied.

**Square-notation:** Stylisation of the French neumes (evolved late 11th, early 12th centuries). They were written on a four-line staff system derived from the use of lines introduced by Guido of Arezzo.

**Sursum (Neumatic Notation):** A significative letter (Latin for ascend).

**Suspirium (Modal Notation):** Very short stroke for breathing in the middle of a phrase.

**Syllables:** A syllable of a word is represented by a single note.

**Tenor:** (tenere - Latin for to hold) 1. Name of the main voice in a composition of the Middle Ages. 2. Today the Tenor is also a voice in a choir.

**Tractulus (Neumatic Notation):** Is a sign for a note lower or equal in pitch as the one before and after.

**Triplum:** Name of the third voice in a polyphonic composition of the Ars Antiqua.

**Virga (Neumatic Notation):** (Latin for rod) Is a sign for a note higher or equal in pitch as the one before.