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Organology in the 14th Century: Annotated Bibliography

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Organology in the 14th Century: Annotated Bibliography

Sara Anne Hook, April 2022

“Ars nova.” Wikipedia. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ars_nova. Accessed 3 Apr. 2022.

Description of the *ars nova* versus *ars antiqua* styles of music, along with a list of composers from the 14th century. Phillippe de Vitry and Guillaume de Machaut are included.

Bancalari, Robert. *Medieval & Renaissance Music for Recorder*. Pacific, MO, Mel Bey, 1999.

Contains three examples of pieces from the 14th century for soprano recorder with guitar accompaniment. All three pieces are by unknown composers.

Comeau, Gilles, and Covert, Rosemary. *An Illustrated History of Music for Young Musicians: The Middle-Ages and the Renaissance*. Ontario, Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pedagogiques (CFORP), 2000.

Half of this book is devoted to the Middle Ages, including music, art, architecture, theater and literature as well as universities, inventions and how people lived. Generously illustrated, the book includes iconography of specific musical instruments, how music was used for sacred and secular purposes and the development of musical notation. The author specifically covers Guillaume de Machaut and Philippe de Vitry as composers during the 14th century and especially de Vitry’s support of the *Ars Nova* movement.

Eckerson, Sara. “Medieval Music, as Found in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (c. 1390). *University of Lisbon*. <https://formadevida.org/seckersonfdv22>. Accessed 22 Feb. 2022.

Although the focus of my final essay and presentation will be on Chaucer’s portrayal of characters through the musical instruments they play, I will reference similar themes from *Piers Plowman* and the work of the Gawain poet. For example, in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the poet describes the music that is included in the festivities.

Feller, Philip. *Music and Instrument in Chaucer*. 2013. City University of New York, dissertation.

This dissertation considers several of the characters from *The Canterbury Tales* and how they are matched with the instruments they play. It is interesting that many of the instruments in Chaucer’s work are presented as having negative connotations when many of these instruments are now the most revered.

International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP)/Petrucci Music Library. imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page. Accessed 4 Apr. 2022.

An exceptional source for free music compositions, including scans of original manuscripts, recordings and edited versions in readable format. The database is searchable by composer name, instrumentation, genre, time period and composer

nationality. Through searching, I located and printed pieces by Guillaume de Machaut, Phillipe de Vitry and anonymous composers, specifically for recorder.

Lander, Nicholas S. "Medieval Period." *Recorder Home Page*.
www.recorderhomepage.net/history/the-medieval-period/. Accessed 11 Jan. 2022.

A short discussion of the recorder during the medieval period with iconography. As stated by Lander, "The recorder is the most highly developed member of the ancient family of internal duct flutes, flutes with a fixed windway formed by a wooden plug or block. Hitherto, it has been distinguished from other internal duct flutes by having holes for seven fingers and a single hole for the thumb of the upper hand."

Lasocki, David. Re: Hello from Indianapolis! (personal communication). 11 Jan. 2022.

Response to my email with recommendations for pieces to study and perform on the recorder. He is a former colleague from Indiana University.

Lasocki, David. "Researching the Recorder in the Middle Ages." *American Recorder*, January 2011, pp. 14-19.

Lasocki is considered an international expert on recorder history, repertoire and performance practice.

Leach, Elizabeth Eva. "The Fourteen Century." *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Music*. Everist, Mark, ed. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

As Leach states on page 87, "Although a famous popular history book's subtitle glossed the fourteenth century as 'calamitous,' a consideration of its music would probably see the period as a triumph." As an avid fan of medieval music and having played much of it on recorder, I agree with Leach's assessment. Moreover, this is the period when musical notation developed and various musical forms evolved, including motets, songs, madrigals and liturgical music, The author considers performance practice and the social context of music in the 14th century.

Leone, F.D. "Guillaume de Machaut: The Best-Known Composer/Poet of the 14th Century." *Musica Kaleidoskopea*. fdleone.com/2015/05/21/guillaume-de-machaut-the-best-known-composerpoet-of-the-14th-century/. Accessed 4 Feb. 2022.

A short biography of de Machaut and his work. Includes information on some of the early music groups who have recorded his music.

Mortimer, Ian. "What to Do: Music and Dancing." *The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors*. New York, Touchstone, 2008.

Describes music and musical instruments in the 14th century, dividing them into categories of "high" (loud) and "low" (soft). Mentions the musical instruments featured in some of Chaucer's poems. Many of the instruments discussed continue to be enjoyed today (crumhorn, sackbut) or have evolved into more recent versions, such as the shawm.

Pittaway, Ian. "Chaucer Geoffrey." *Early Music Muse: Early Music Performance and Research*. earlymusicmuse.com/category/chaucer-geoffrey/. Accessed 23 Feb. 2022.

Excellent images complement a discussion of the clash between the medieval church and minstrelsy.

"Recorder (musical instrument)." *Wikipedia*.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recorder_\(musical_instrument\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recorder_(musical_instrument)), Accessed 11 Jan. 2022.

A basic overview of the recorder as a musical instrument, including history, nomenclature, structure, acoustics and technique.

"Saint Cecilia." *Wikipedia*. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Cecilia. Accessed 2 Apr. 2022.

Describes the patron saint of music. Her story appears in Chaucer's work as "The Second Nun's Tale."

Sandon, Nick, and Page, Christopher. "Music." *Medieval Britain: The Cambridge Cultural History, Vol. 2*. Ford, Boris, ed. Cambridge University Press, 1992.

In addition to a substantive chapter on music, the book covers architecture, literature and drama, visual arts and crafts, the landscape and the cultural and social settings. The works of Chaucer, Langland and the Gawain poet are discussed, and the text is beautifully illustrated. Religious and secular music and musical instruments are included in the chapter on music.

"The Miller's Tale." *Wikipedia*. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Miller%27s_Tale. Accessed 22 Feb. 2022.

A synopsis of the tale, along with a description of Robin the Miller and an analysis of the text. Includes an illustration of Robin playing a bagpipe.

"The Second Nun's Tale." *Wikipedia*. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Second_Nun%27s_Tale. Accessed 2 Apr. 2022.

A short summary of "The Second Nun's Tale" with a beautiful image of St. Cecilia playing an early fiddle. Note how she holds the instrument at her side instead of under her chin.

Webb, Catherine, and Terkla, Dan. "Wel Koude He Blow and Sowne" Musical Symbolism in Chaucer's "The Miller's Tale." *8th Annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*, Illinois Wesleyan University, Apr. 12, 1997.

digitalcommons.iwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1531&context=jwprc. Accessed 22 Feb. 2022.

In her presentation, Webb discusses how Chaucer uses music as a tool for social stratification, focuses especially "The Miller's Tale."

“Your Recorder Community.” *American Recorder Society*. <https://americanrecorder.org/>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.

The source for everything about recorders. Although I’ve played recorder for many years, I became a member of ARS in 2022, inspired by my Final Essay assignment.