



MIDDLE AGES (MEDIEVAL ERA) 400-1450



NAME _____

DATE _____

Typical Characteristics of Medieval Music

- A cappella music (voices without accompaniment) was prevalent.
- The most common sacred (religious) music was the mass (order of the Catholic service).
- Sacred music texts were written in Latin.
- Sacred music, even after harmony developed, was based on Gregorian chant.
- Common secular (non-religious) vocal forms were accompanied by lute, pipe, drums, and other instruments of the day.
- Dynamic changes were very subdued.
- Chant was monophonic ("one sound" or a single line of music with no harmony).
- Music in the late Middle Ages became polyphonic ("many songs" or two or more melodies combined). The rise of polyphony was actually the beginning of harmony as we know it.

Listening Selection: *Alma Redemptoris Mater* by Palestrina (Renaissance)
Glorificamus te by Butler (Contemporary)

Directions: Although these two selections are not from the medieval era, they both use monophonic medieval era chants. Answer the following questions.

1. An example of monophonic chant occurs where in *Alma Redemptoris Mater*?
Beginning Middle End
2. An example of monophonic chant occurs where in *Glorificamus te*?
Beginning Middle End
3. Listen closely to *Glorificamus te*. Which of the characteristics below would indicate that this piece was not written during the Middle Ages?
 - _____ Piano accompaniment
 - _____ Very rhythmic, non-subdued accompaniment
 - _____ Much dynamic contrast
 - _____ Unison, monophonic singing
 - _____ Complex rhythms
 - _____ Latin text
4. Listen closely to *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. Which of the characteristics below would indicate that this piece was not written during the Middle Ages?
 - _____ Piano accompaniment
 - _____ Complicated harmonies
 - _____ Some dynamic contrast
 - _____ Unison, monophonic singing
 - _____ Complex rhythms
 - _____ Latin text
5. Why do you think a composer would choose to use a style hundreds of years old?