MUH 101

Fall 2014

**Chant Assignment**

**Due Friday, October 17**

Time to write some music! Through a series of original compositions, you are going to trace the growth of chant into polyphony from about the Early Middle Ages to the 1300s. For this first assignment of the series, you’ll be writing a chant. For your chant, we’ll follow the same trajectory as the musical monks of the Middle Ages.

1. Pick or compose a text. Your text should be appropriate for a Church—you can pick the “church” of your choice.

2. Listen to the chants in your Anthology. A lot. You want to have that “sound” in your head.

3. After listening to the chant selections in your Anthology, begin to sing your chant (showers are great for this.) You want your chant to have the characteristics we’ve discussed in class—mostly conjunct, diatonic, small range, free rhythm, modal. Your chant may be syllabic, melismatic, or neumatic—whatever seems appropriate. It should be at least the length of one verse of the Hymn in your Anthology.

4. Once your chant exists, notate it. On plain paper draw yourself a four-line staff for your use. You’re going to write out your chant not in modern *notes* but in Medieval *neumes.* You’ll need to read and use the information at <http://www.lphrc.org/Chant/> to guide you in your neumatic notation. Yes, I know—the rules for picking which specific neumes to use is a bit in-depth—I don’t expect you to be historically perfect here, but I do expect you to create a chant that looks roughly like the examples in your Anthology. In addition to using neumes, be sure to employ appropriate clefs, breaths, mode designation, and end-of-line custos. (Selections 3-9 in your Anthology can also serve as useful guides.)

5. Bring your notated chant to class and turn it in.