



Musical Notations

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What is Music Notation?

It is a system; **visually represented symbols for sound** and rest that are aurally received

It includes **musical articulation, duration, tempo, scales, chords**

Sung by the human voice, played by various instruments

The types of notations have been varied by cultures throughout the history

There is an evolution of Music Notation that can be mapped to the music history

Medieval Era Musical Notation

- Neumas

Very first musical notation prior to the evolution of modern musical notation of today

I.  **K** Y-ri- e * e- lé- i-son.

The image shows a sample of medieval musical notation. It features a four-line staff with square neumes (black squares) placed on the lines and in the spaces. A large, ornate initial letter 'K' is positioned to the left of the staff. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Y-ri- e * e- lé- i-son.' are written in a Gothic-style font. The notation is a form of square notation, which is a precursor to modern musical notation.

In Various Countries

KOREA

- *Jeongganbo* is a unique traditional musical notation system created during the time of Sejong the Great that was the first East Asian system to represent rhythm, pitch, and time.



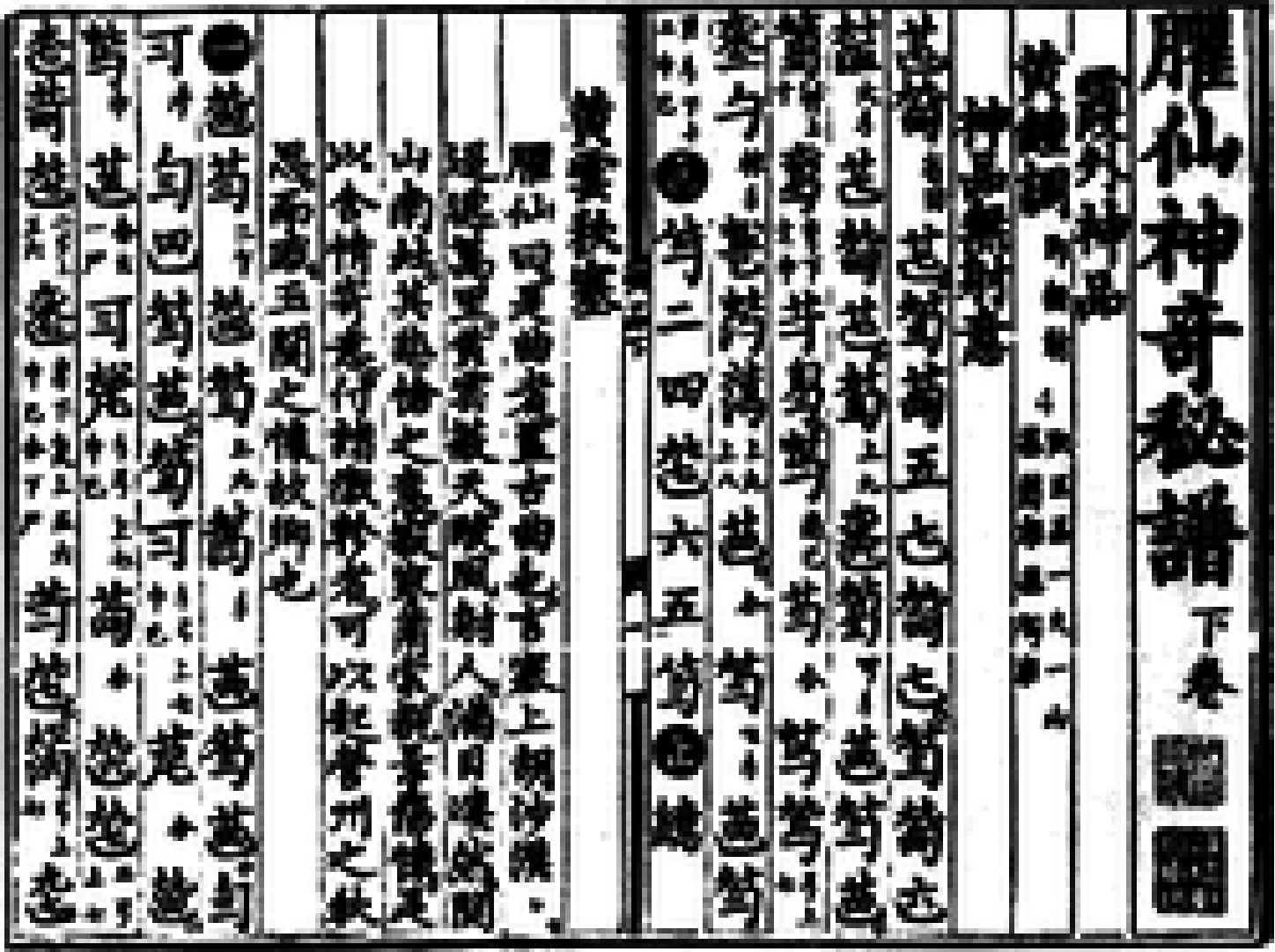
Russia

- Znamenny Chants are not written with notes (the so-called linear notation), but with special signs, called *Znamëna* (Russian for "marks", "banners") or *Kryuki* ("hooks"), as some shapes of these signs resemble hooks



China

- Sets of 41 chimestones and 65 bells bore lengthy inscriptions concerning pitches, scales, and transposition.



Japan

- Japanese music is highly diversified, and therefore requires various systems of notation.
- In Japanese shakuhachi music, for example, **glissandos** and **timbres** are often more significant than distinct pitches, whereas taiko notation focuses on discrete strokes.



Microtones

eighth-sharps



eighth-flats



Microtonal music or **microtonality** is the use in music of microtones [intervals](#) smaller than a [semitone](#), also called "microintervals".

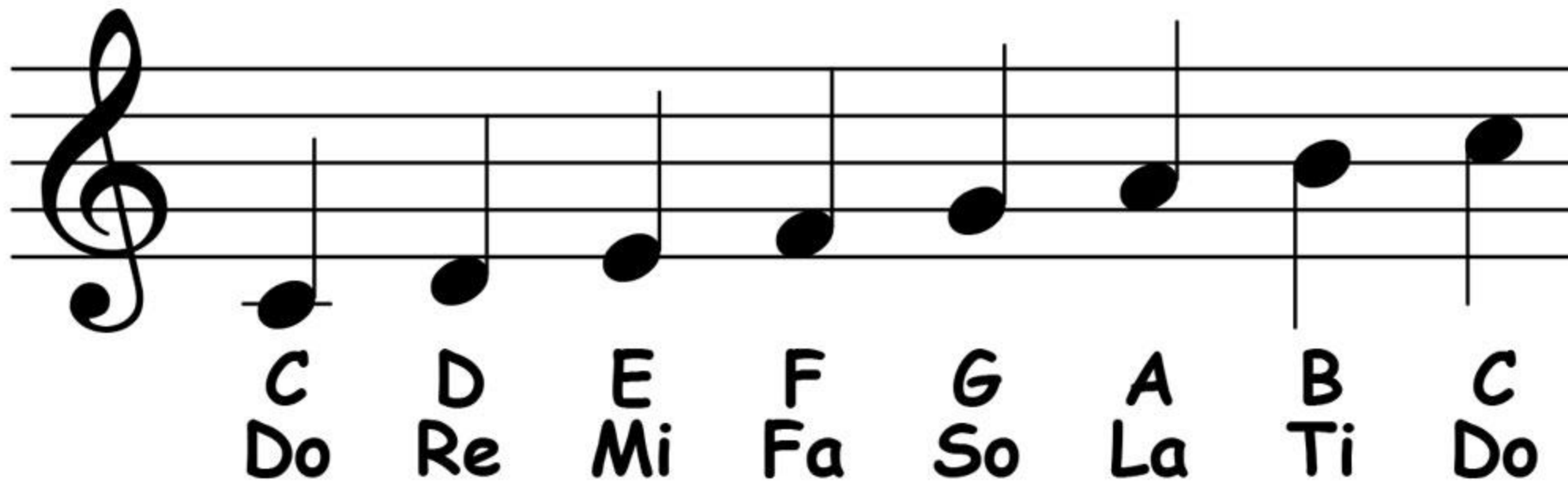
Microtones

- "The term "microtonal music" usually refers to music containing very small intervals but can include any tuning that differs from Western twelve-tone [equal temperament](#).
- Traditional Indian systems of 22 [śruti](#); Indonesian [gamelan music](#); Thai, Burmese, and African music, and music using [just intonation](#), [meantone temperament](#) or other alternative tunings may be considered microtonal.
- Microtonal variation of intervals is standard practice in the African-American musical forms of [spirituals](#), [blues](#) and [jazz](#)."

Solfège

- Solfège is a way of assigning syllables to names of the musical scale.
- In order, they are today: *Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do'* (for the octave).
- The classic variation is: *Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Si Do'*.
- The first Western system of functional names for the musical notes was introduced by [Guido of Arezzo](#) (c. 991 – after 1033), using the beginning syllables of the first six musical lines of the Latin hymn [Ut queant laxis](#).
- ([See list of musical symbols](#))

Solfege



Let's Sing



Hap-py Birth-day to you, Hap-py



Birth-day to you! Hap-py Birth-day



to Sarah, Hap-py Birth-day to you!

Row, row, row your boat

singing-bell.com

Row, row, row your boat gen - tly down the stream

5 mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly life is but a dream

The image shows two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song. The notes are: C4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter). The lyrics are 'Row, row, row your boat gen - tly down the stream'. Handwritten blue solfège syllables are placed above the notes: 'Do' above C4, 'Re' above G4, 'Mi' above A4, 'Fa' above B4, and 'Sol' above E4. Red vertical lines are placed above the notes to indicate pitch contours: a line above C4, a line above G4, a line above A4, a line above B4, a line above A4, a line above G4, a line above F4, and a line above E4. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of the song. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are 'mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly mer - ri - ly life is but a dream'. Handwritten blue solfège syllables are placed above the notes: 'Do' above C4. Red vertical lines are placed above the notes to indicate pitch contours: a line above C4, a line above D4, a line above E4, a line above F4, a line above G4, a line above A4, a line above B4, a line above A4, a line above G4, a line above F4, a line above E4, a line above D4, and a line above C4. Chord symbols 'G7' and 'C' are placed above the notes G4 and C4 respectively.

**In case that you sing the melody as a 'round', enter a new voice every two measures and accompany only with C.*

Rap Notation

- Hip-hop scholars also make use of the same **flow diagrams** that rappers use: the books *How to Rap* and *How to Rap 2* extensively use the diagrams to explain rap's triplets, flams, rests, rhyme schemes, runs of rhyme, and breaking rhyme patterns, among other techniques



Jazz Notation

- VII Modes of the Major Scale
- All of these scales were commonly used by late nineteenth and early twentieth-century composers such as [Rimsky-Korsakov](#), [Debussy](#), [Ravel](#) and [Stravinsky](#), often in ways that directly anticipate jazz practice.

Modes of the major scale

Mode	Name	Scale on C	Associated chord ^[7]
I	Ionian	C–D–E–F–G–A–B–C	C ^{maj7} (9, 13)
II	Dorian	C–D–E ^b –F–G–A–B ^b –C	Cm ⁶ or Cm ⁷ (9, 11, 13)
III	Phrygian	C–D ^b –E ^b –F–G–A ^b –B ^b –C	C ^{7sus} (b9)
IV	Lydian	C–D–E–F [#] –G–A–B–C	C ^{maj7#11} (9, 13)
V	Mixolydian	C–D–E–F–G–A–B ^b –C	C ⁷ (9, 13)
VI	Aeolian	C–D–E ^b –F–G–A ^b –B ^b –C	Cm ⁷ (9, 11)
VII	Locrian	C–D ^b –E ^b –F–G ^b –A ^b –B ^b –C	Cm ^{7b5} or C ^{ø7} (11, b13)

Jazz Notation

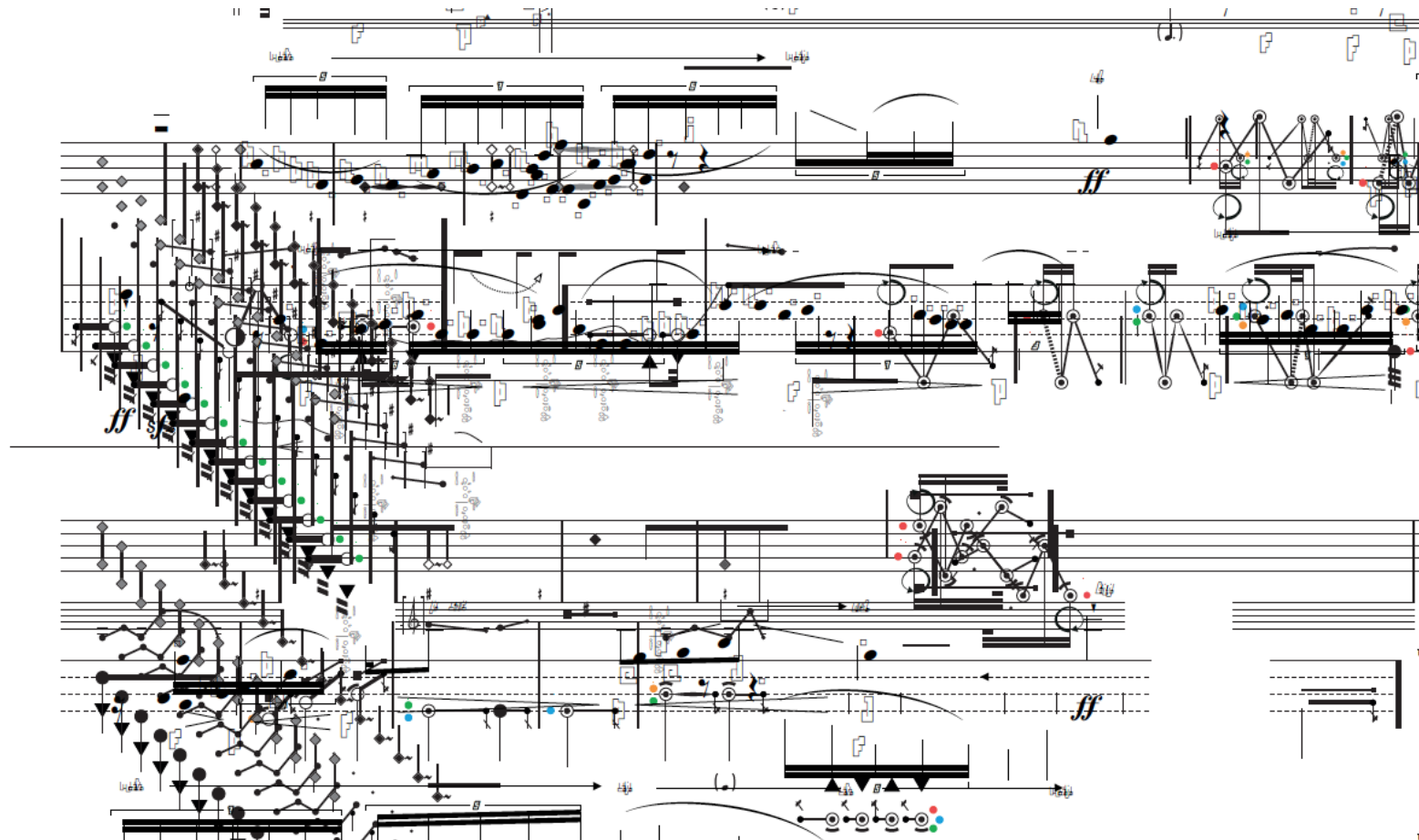
- Lead-sheet symbols (also known as “lead-sheet notation” and “lead-sheet chord symbols”) are often used as shorthand for chords in popular music and jazz.

The image shows a handwritten musical score on a five-line staff. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of four measures: a whole note G4, a whole note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. Handwritten annotations include 'C7' above the first measure, 'MELODY' with a line pointing to the melody line, 'F' above the third measure, and 'LYRIC' with a line pointing to the lyrics 'WI - KI - PE - DI - A' written below the staff.

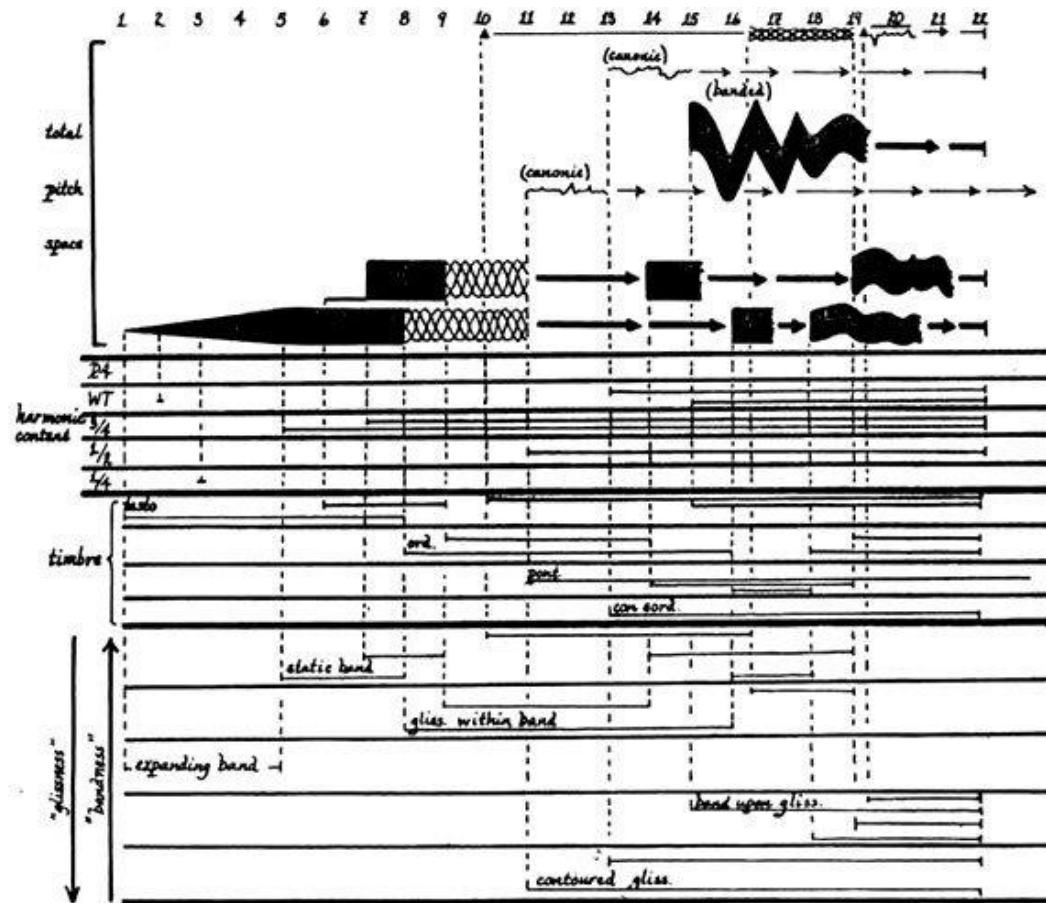
Contemporary Classical Music

- **Contemporary classical music** is [classical music](#) composed close to the present day.
- At the beginning of the 21st century, it commonly referred to the post-1945 [modern forms](#) of [post-tonal](#) music after the death of [Anton Webern](#), and included [serial music](#), [electronic music](#), [experimental music](#), and [minimalist music](#).
- See textbook – page- 311 - Part 6 "Twentieth Century Modernism."

Contemporary Music Notation (Sound Morphology)



Contemporary Music Notation Experimental Music



References

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