

Musica figurata 1

13. Seminar

Institut für Alte Musik
Ruth Bruckner - WS 2024/25

General

Attendance and examination requirements

Debriefing

What was covered last time?

Where did we leave off in the history of music?

Ars subtilior

Matteo da Perugia:

Plus lies de lies



<https://open.spotify.com/intl-de/track/05W1YYAVYHG29NRg3hfsuh?si=c2a850ce89ef402e>

Ars subtilior

What does Ars subtilior mean?

What period is that?

Ars subtilior

Machaut's death is the breaking point between Ars nova and Ars subtilior, after his death comes Ars subtilior, but of course also other pieces in the older style

Ars subtilior

Ars subtilior term comes from Ursula Günther

Period ca. 1378-1419 = ecclesiastical schism

Complex syncopation, proportions and counter-rhythms, special notation techniques

Ars subtilior

In which geographical area does it take place?

Ars subtilior

- Complex syncopation, proportions and counter-rhythms
- Special notation techniques
- Complex harmonic combinations
- Canons, imitation and sequences
- Quotations of text and music from other works
- Large-scale compositions
- Execution instructions

Ars subtilior

- Ars subtilior is very individualistic, elite, closed, in different European centres, but there were exchanges
- for musicians but also for listeners and patrons

Ars subtilior

Notation

- There is no written standardisation, each piece can have different characters
- Depending on the piece, the characters are also called something else
- at the end it says: "canon" = explanation (has nothing to do with musical structure)
- There are pieces that only use ars subtilior means in certain places:
Variety of elements!
- Graphically very rich and creative

Ars subtilior

Baude Cordier: Tout par compas

The manuscript page, titled "Baude Cordier", is a historical musical score. The central feature is a large circular musical score composed of several concentric staves. The outermost staff contains rhythmic notation, while the inner staves contain melodic notation with square neumes. The score is divided into measures by vertical lines. The title "Baude Cordier" is written in a large, decorative Gothic script across the middle of the page. Surrounding the central score are four circular vignettes containing text in Gothic script. The top-left vignette contains a prayer: "Je vous supplie de vous souvenir de moi par compas...". The top-right vignette contains a prayer: "Vierge vous ie vous prie chierement...". The bottom-left vignette contains a prayer: "O Baude Cordier seigneur...". The bottom-right vignette contains a prayer: "O Baude Cordier seigneur...".

Top-left vignette:
Je vous supplie de vous souvenir de moi par compas
Pour par compas de vous souvenir de moi par compas
Pour par compas de vous souvenir de moi par compas
Pour par compas de vous souvenir de moi par compas

Top-right vignette:
Vierge vous ie vous prie chierement
Priez pour celle qui ma fait
Je suis a tous communement
Seigneur vous ie vous prie chierement
Que Dieu a son desmemore
Le donne pardon de son meffait
Seigneur ie vous prie chierement
Priez pour celle qui ma fait

Bottom-left vignette:
O Baude Cordier seigneur
Celi qui compasa ce se vade
Je suis bien flouze a tout homme
Maistre Baude Cordier seigneur
De vous donez et ussua vaine
Sa musique appere a eade
Maistre Baude Cordier seigneur
Celi qui compasa ce se vade

Bottom-right vignette:
O Baude Cordier seigneur
Je suis ce cordel pour effice
Je suis pour prendre consolation
Par son amour et par devotion
Pour Vre corps et mon affection
Et son plaisir font et li offre
Par son amour et par devotion
Je suis ce cordel pour effice

Ars subtilior

Baude Cordier: Belle, Bonne, Sage

M. Baude Cordier

The image shows a manuscript page with a complex musical score. The score is written on multiple staves, with the upper portion forming a heart shape. The lyrics are written below the staves. The title 'M. Baude Cordier' is at the top. The lyrics include: 'elle bonne sage plus sage', 'le bon Dieu despoisment le bon Dieu', 'par ainsi se professe', 'C'est Belle bonne', 'C'est Belle bonne', and 'Belle bonne...'. The manuscript is on aged, yellowed paper.

elle bonne sage plus sage
le bon Dieu despoisment le bon Dieu
par ainsi se professe
C'est Belle bonne
C'est Belle bonne
Belle bonne...

Ars subtilior

Jacob Senleches:
La harpe de mélodie



Ars subtilior

Important sources

Chantilly Codex

Parchment manuscript, 112 compositions

Chantilly = place north of Paris

Possibly created in Avignon, cultural centre of the time because of the popes

Baude Cordier may have added attributions to composers at the end of the codex; there are many names

Ars subtilior

Modena Codex = ModA

also parchment manuscript

Avignon papal court

Paper not much cheaper than parchment, paper has problems with ink, acid of the ink eats the paper, if paper sources are preserved, then no paintings with them, that would be too much material for paper layer

Codex Cyprus

all unica pieces

Codex Reina

very different repertoire in it: Trecento/Ars nova/Ars subtilior and in the last block also Burgundian chansons

1834 in the collection of Signor Reina in Italy

Ars subtilior

Important composers

Matheus de Sancte Johanne (died 1391)

Magiuster Egidius

Solage

the most represented composer in the Codex Chantilly (12 pieces)

Jaquemin de Senleches

Jehan Vaillant

Baude Cordier (actually called Fresnel)

writes about himself that works are known from Reims to Rome

Ars subtilior

Works:

Solage: Fumeux fume

"Fumeur" also has to do with humours, alchemy, body-mind, character traits

Fumer is rather smoking in the sense of feeling anger, there was nothing to smoke back then, no tobacco or drugs



<https://open.spotify.com/intl-de/track/4vGVFkUHbFCQCTBnkl4lo4?si=0113bfde7a044376>

Ars subtilior

Works:

Jehan Vaillant: Par maintes fois



<https://open.spotify.com/intl-de/track/3qQnAsnO8B4sgiemeE7lah?si=55015ecd9c934dc9>

Musica ficta

Ficta = extra signs that have to do with attractiveness
from fingere = to deceive

for two reasons: beauty, or necessity (cadences)

causa pulchritudinis

causa necessitas

you have to find your own way for it, develop a taste for it

Musica ficta

Tones that Guido has not theorised

also arises from a melodic taste

as early as the 13th century, chorales were sung with # and b to emphasise the attractiveness of certain notes

Today we associate Gregorian chant with diatonicism, but there are already sources in the 13th century that indicate that people wanted more attractiveness for certain notes

This is in a treatise in Pseudo-Garlandia (copied text from Garlandia and another part written about melodic turns) but he gives no indication when exactly to use it

some theorists say: let us return to purity of modes (Johannes de Moravia), there is too much musica ficta

Repetitorium

Task: Recognise and assign


Name the century and the origin, any characteristics and special features

Repetitorium

Sanctus. *O* mnia. *in* *vesca* *omnia* *evocae*
O splendidissima gemma & se re num de cul so
lus qui tibi in su sus est font sa uent de cor
de pa tris quod e u nicu uerbum su um p qd ce a ut
mundi pri ma ma re riam quam e ua tur bant hoc uer
bum effa brica ut tibi pa ter ho minem et ob hoc et tu
illa lucida mare ria p quam hoc ipsum uer bum ex spi trant

Repetitorium

phonia
q̄ ego docendis pueris in p̄mis. etiā ī ultimis utor

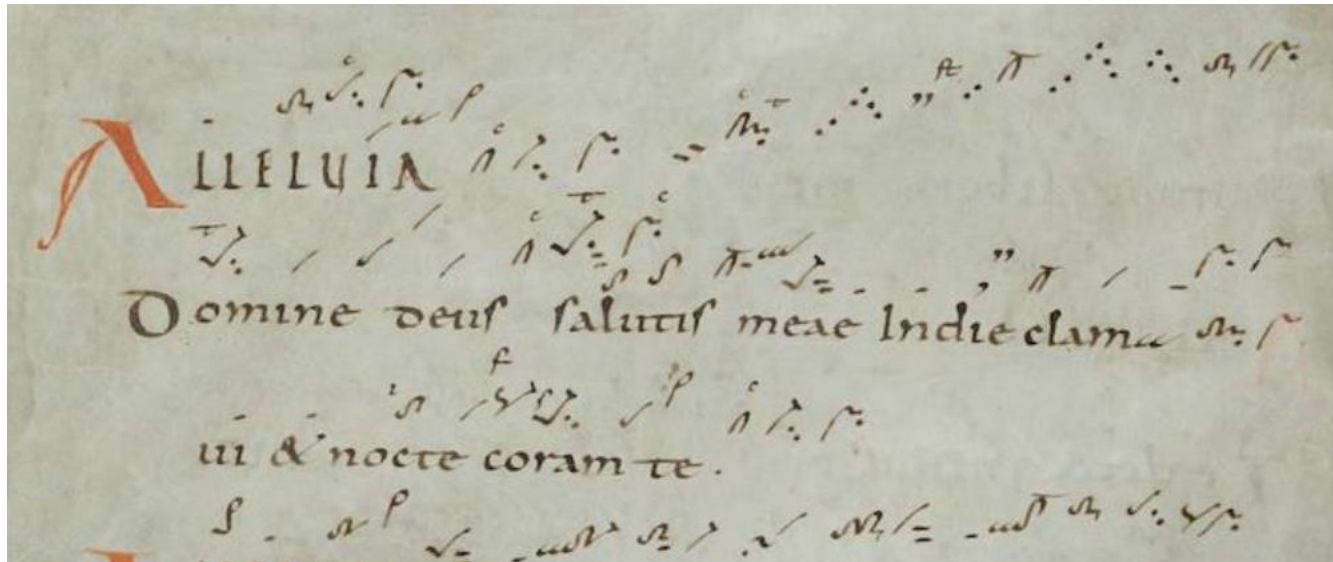


Et que amo lavis Resonare fibris mira gestorum. Famuli tuorū solve pollicis labii reatum sancte

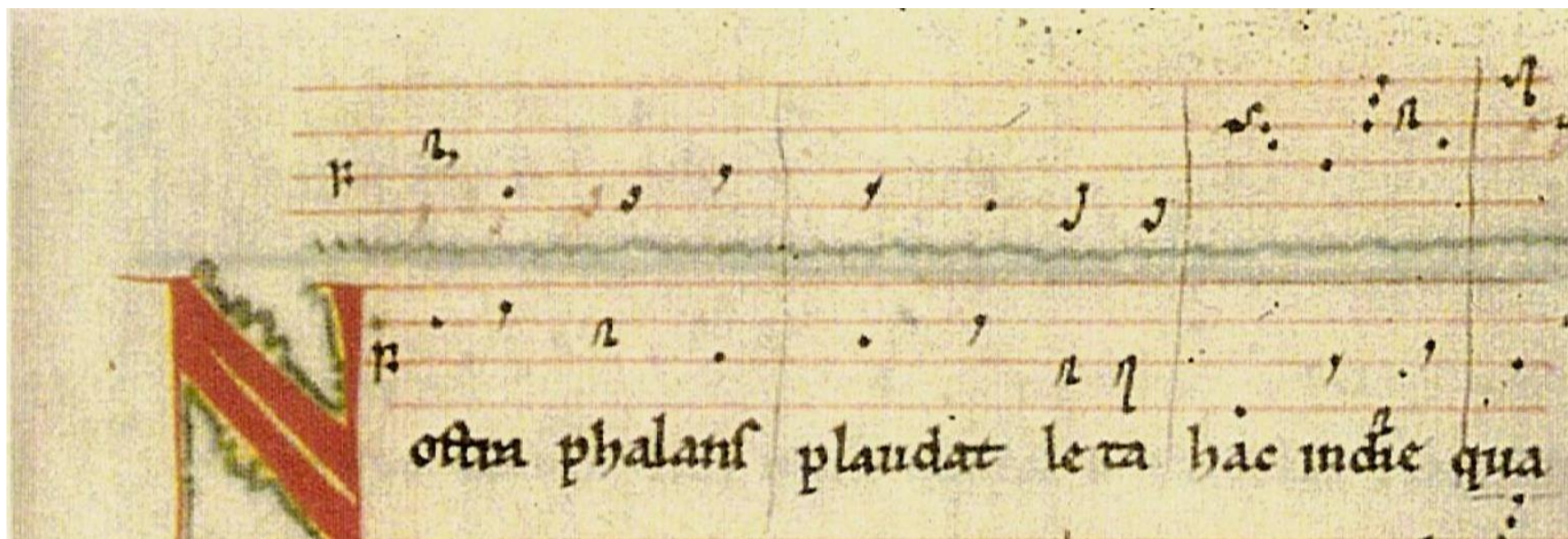
Vides itaq; ut hęc simphonia sensu particulissuis. a vi diuisis̄ incipiat
uocab; Siquis itaq; unicuiq; particulae caput ita exercitat nouerit
ut confecti quacūq; particula uoluerit indubitan̄ incipiat. easdē

iohannes

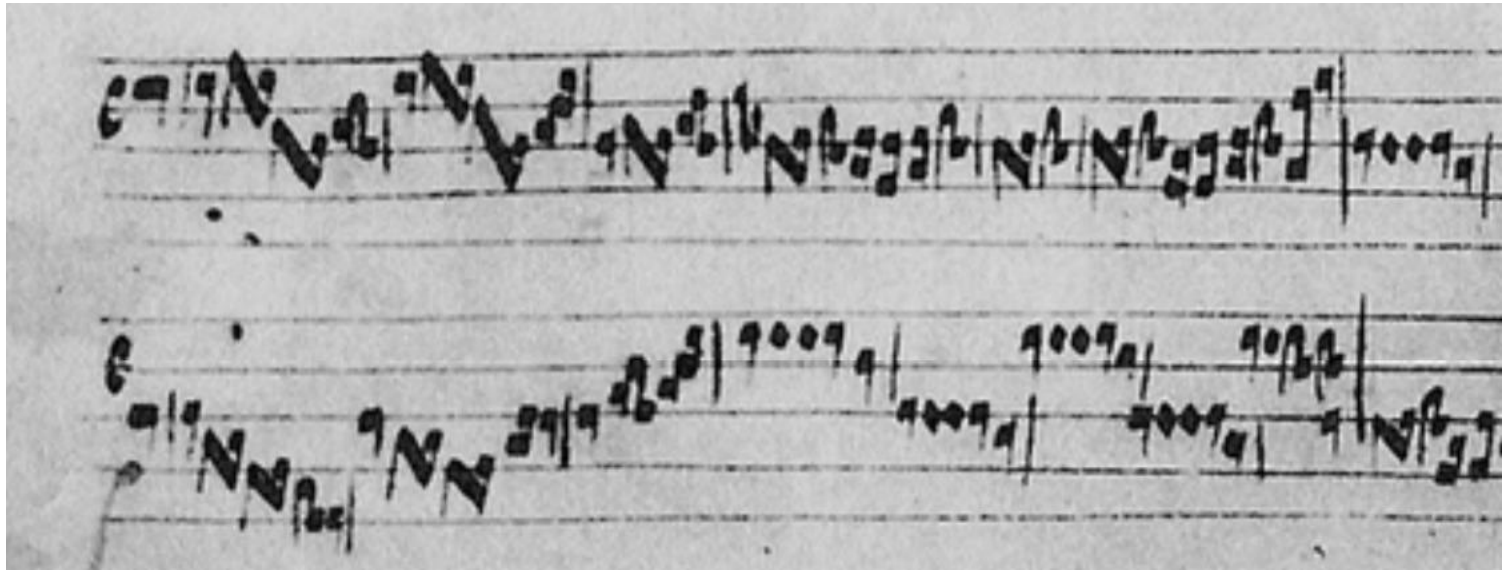
Repetitorium



Repetitorium



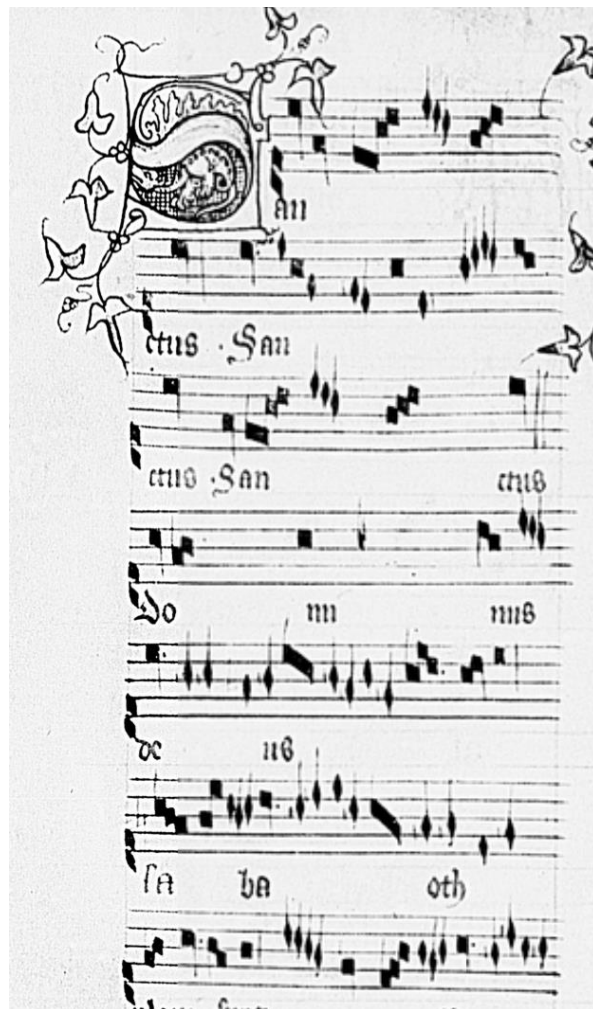
Repetitorium



Repetitorium



Repetitorium



Repetitorium

I Alente stellet mio cor deffay con nouo guardo
che moue da more. **A** spietata de que letyp
a more. **Va** in un dolce prometton fa lute a
Ed io chi con un singg
riso finan mia vita pfo
ueteute. **Q**uora mostro
chi se spechia nello to bel viso: delemie ferute ma popu
prouo chelo tonatore ai crudelate struge lo mio core.

Repetitorium

Vis que ame
Enqui moy
fui en
doul
ten
cement de la plausant
dement hymus a tou
ce a tu re.
te ma cu
re. Si en
seu den
tence pure Tout le temps que
luient. En
la se uant
De ceu gny
Enoz

Repetitorium



Repetitorium



Repetitorium



Repetitorium



Repetitorium

