

# **MEDIEVAL MUSIC: AN INTRODUCTION**

## **THE DOCTRINE OF ETHOS**

Ancient Greek belief that music affects human character and conduct. Philosophers believed that there was a relationship or connection between music and states of the soul, or music and human emotion.

## **SEVEN IDEAS ABOUT MUSIC**

1. Conception of music as an essentially pure melody
2. Idea that the melody is linked with words. A melody, in basic terms, is a single melodic line.
3. Tradition of performance based on improvisation
4. Philosophy that music was not just an art, but an orderly system, capable of affecting human character
5. Scientifically founded theory of acoustics (the interdisciplinary science that deals with the study of all mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids)
6. System of scale formation based on tetrachords (a series of four pitches, or the interval of a perfect fourth, used as the principal building block of ancient Greek scales). A scale is a sequence of musical notes in ascending and descending order that provides material for or is used to conveniently represent part or all of a piece of music including melody and/or harmony
7. Musical terminology

## **GREEK SYSTEM**

Pythagoras was a Greek mathematician and scholar, who linked music with numbers by simple ratios to produce consonant intervals. An interval is the distance between two notes. A consonant interval is an interval that is pleasing to the ears. Musicians wanted to connect with ancient Greek music, the roots of ancient Greek musical traditions.

## **TWO TYPES OF MELODY**

1. **Monophony** (monophonic): Single melody without harmony or counterpoint
2. **Heterophony** (homophonic): Melody that is doubled and embellished by instruments