Medieval Music Practice Test

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1. The phrase *Middle Ages* refers to the period of European history spanning
   A) 450-1000
   B) 450-1450
   C) 1150-1450
   D) 1000-1150

2. In the Middle Ages, most important musicians were
   A) peasants
   B) traveling entertainers
   C) priests
   D) women

3. A virtual monopoly on learning during the Middle Ages was held by
   A) knights in castles
   B) professors in universities
   C) monks in monasteries
   D) wandering minstrels or *jongleurs*

4. During the Middle Ages, women
   A) were not permitted to sing in church
   B) sang at all church services
   C) could sing only in monasteries
   D) were not permitted to participate in church services

5. An important woman composer of the Middle Ages was
   A) Alicia de la Rocha
   B) Amy Beach
   C) Hildegard of Bingen
   D) Madonna

6. Most medieval music was
   A) instrumental
   B) vocal
   C) for the piano
   D) for the organ

7. Church authorities in the Middle Ages ____________________ their religious services.
   A) encouraged the use of music as a highlight of
   B) forbade the use of music in
   C) wanted music only as a discreet accompaniment to
   D) preferred instrumental music in
8. Gregorian chant consists of
   A) one instrument playing alone
   B) melody sung without accompaniment
   C) several voices singing in harmony
   D) several instruments playing together

9. Gregorian chant melodies tend to move
   A) by leaps over a wide range of pitches
   B) stepwise within a narrow range of pitches
   C) infrequently, remaining on a single tone for long stretches
   D) only by perfect intervals

10. Hildegard of Bingen was
    A) the first woman composer to leave a large number of works that have survived
    B) abbess of the convent at Rupertsberg
    C) a visionary and mystic active in religious and diplomatic affairs
    D) all of the above

11. Trouvère songs of the Middle Ages dealt with all of the following subjects except
    A) love
    B) dancing
    C) the Crusades
    D) religion

12. The wandering minstrels, or jongleurs, of the Middle Ages
    A) performed music and acrobatics in castles, taverns, and town squares
    B) lived on the lowest level of society
    C) played instrumental dances on harps, fiddles, and lutes
    D) all of the above

13. Medieval music that consists of Gregorian chant and one or more additional melodic lines is called
    A) ars nova
    B) organum
    C) cantus firmus
    D) alleluia

14. The melody added to the Gregorian chant to form organum around 1100 was usually
    _______________ the original chant.
    A) slower than
    B) faster than
    C) note against note of
    D) a duplication at a lower pitch of
15. In medieval times, most polyphonic music was created by
   A) placing new melodic lines against known chants
   B) harmonizing melodies with chords
   C) having some singers embellish the chant during church services
   D) adding orchestral instruments to church music

16. *Cantus firmus* is the term used for
   A) a part of the Catholic church's religious service
   B) a chant that is used as the basis for polyphony
   C) the melody added to a Gregorian chant to form organum
   D) the singers of a church choir

17. Among other causes, secular music became more important than sacred music in the fourteenth century because
   A) the literature of the time stressed earthly sensuality
   B) rival popes claimed authority at the same time, thereby weakening the authority of the church
   C) the feudal system had gone into decline
   D) all of the above

18. The term *ars nova* refers to
   A) Italian and French music of the fourteenth century
   B) German music of the sixteenth century
   C) the new art of baroque painters
   D) paintings from the new world

19. The *ars nova* differed from older music in that
   A) the music emphasized homophonic texture
   B) rhythm could be notated more precisely
   C) there was no syncopation
   D) the subjects were all secular

20. Francesco Landini's *Ecco la primavera* (*Spring has come*) is in the poetic and musical form of a
    A) troubadour
    B) ballata
    C) Mass
    D) vielle

21. Guillaume de Machaut's compositions consist mainly of
    A) music for church services
    B) Gregorian chants
    C) dance music
    D) love songs with instrumental accompaniment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composer</th>
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| 22. _____ | • c. 1160/70-c.1205/25, France  
• outstanding composer of his time  
• developed the principle of modal rhythm and contributed to the establishment of mensural notation  
• revised organum of Leonin by adding voice parts  
• composed in 3 or 4 voice parts  
• descant style writing  
• trained at Notre Dame Cathedral |
| A) Leonin  
B) Perotin  
C) Guillaume de Machaut  
D) Francesco Landini | |
| 23. _____ | • c.1335-1397, Italy  
• Most prolific Italian composer of this time  
• Poet  
• Wrote 154 secular compositions  
• Wrote using 2 or 3 voice parts  
• Blind from birth  
• Studied philosophy and astrology |
| A) Leonin  
B) Perotin  
C) Guillaume de Machaut  
D) Francesco Landini | |
| 24. _____ | • c.1300-1377, France  
• Dominant composer of the Ars Nova  
• 1st to set Mass ordinary in polyphony  
• Preserved works by compiling them  
• Wrote 150 compositions  
• Composed using 3 or 4 voices  
• Used lots of syncopation and duple meter |
| A) Leonin  
B) Perotin  
C) Guillaume de Machaut  
D) Francesco Landini | |
| 25. _____ | • c. 1163-1190, France  
• 1st significant composer of polyphony  
• used rhythmic modes  
• composed 46 organum  
• choir boy in Paris |
| A) Leonin  
B) Perotin  
C) Guillaume de Machaut  
D) Francesco Landini | |

In addition to these questions you will have 7 listening examples to identify using your listening guide and you will need to turn in your listening guide with the test.
ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. D
11. D
12. D
13. B
14. A
15. A
16. B
17. D
18. A
19. B
20. B
21. A
22. B
23. D
24. C
25. A