TRoubadours, continued:
Early Polyphony Through to Leonin

1. Sext

2. Peter Munstedt, Librarian of the Lewis Music Library, Introduction

3. Troubadours and Trouvères
   a. Part of the Medieval tradition of *fin amours* (or *fin’amors*): refined love or courtly love
      i. This is the Middle Ages of popular imagination: chivalry, jousting, feasts, minstrels, unrequited love.
      ii. Poetry has endless variations on the theme of love from a lower/middle class man (or even a knight) for “the lady” – usually the wife of the Lord; often told in a poet’s *vida* (stylized biography)
      iii. Less often, but not rarely: unrequited love of a lower/middle class woman (trobaritz or trobairitz) for a nobleman.
      iv. First important major literary collections in the vernacular
      v. All were probably sung, but not all survive with melodies. Only 10% of troubadour songs have surviving melodies (and sadly, exactly one by a trobaritz) and 2/3 of the (later) trouvère songs.
   b. Rhythm and Secular Music
      i. Rule #1: Don’t go there!
   c. Instruments and Secular Music
      i. Rule #1: Don’t go there!
      ii. Rule #2: Try a drone
      iii. Rule #3: Some random notes plucked on a harp or a lute between verses sound good.

4. Three troubadour pieces:
   a. Bernart de Ventadorn, *Can vei la lauzeta mover*. (c. 1160–70; troubadour)
   b. Beatriz de Dia, *A chantar m’er* (c. 1175—the only surviving trobaritz melody)
   c. Raimbaut de Vaqueiras, *Kalenda Maya* (borrowed “estampida”)

5. Other traditions
   a. Italy: extension of the troubadours
   b. Germany: *Minnesinger* (creators of Minnesang)
   c. Spain: *cantigas*

6. Early Polyphony

7. Theoretical sources and prehistory
      i. Sing a new voice (*vox organalis*) in parallel below the chant (*vox principalis*) at the fourth (or perhaps the fifth)
      ii. Either of the voices, *organalis* or *principalis*, may be doubled an octave up.
For Thursday: Paper Due
21M.220 Early Music
Fall 2010

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: http://ocw.mit.edu/terms.