

# LESSON I ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMANS:

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ORIGIN OF MUSIC AND THEATER

GREEK MYTHOLOGY

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Key concepts

Greek Mythology is the body of myths: gods and heroes.

Invention of theaters for comedies and tragedies.

Greek culture, Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, and Renaissance.

# MUSIC IN THE GREEK AND ROMAN PERIOD

- Most of us believe that classical music has only been composed in the last 500 years.
- But we can go back to the Greek and Roman period, because the modern lyric's root lies beneath of Ancient Greece.
- Let's learn how music was treated from the Greek and Roman period.
- Origin of Greek theater as stage performances to enjoy.

# PLATON AND ARISTOTLE ON THE ENDS OF MUSIC (音楽の目的)

Traditionally, in ancient Greece, music was included in education and was part of religious and civic ceremonies. Music was an integral part of men's lives. They examined the relationship between music and the common good, particularly its place in education.

They saw music as the perfection of nature. For Plato, man's first education is aimed at forming the whole person, with gymnastics directed towards a child's body, and music directed toward his soul.

Plato explicitly indicates this effect with respect to choric training, which is identical with a child's education through gymnastics and music.

They help establish and maintain the proper order in man's nature. Plato explicitly indicates this point with respect to choric training, which is identical with a child's education through gymnastics and music.



In antiquity, the Greeks used the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as the bases of pedagogy. Literature was central to the educational-function by using memory and improvisation via song and chant. At the Panathenaic Festival of athletics, music, poetics, and sacrifice, were integrated in the celebration of Athena's birthday.

The *Iliad* (/ˈɪliəd/; Ancient Greek: Ἰλιάς *Iliás*, pronounced [iː.li.ás] which means the ***Song of Ilion*** or ***Song of Ilium***) is an ancient Greek epic poem which was attributed to Homer.



**The Trojan War tells the battles and events during the quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles.**

# Ancient Greek music theory

Ancient Greek music theory distinguishes three *genera* (singular: *genus* 種) of tetrachords(テトラコード、音列・音程). These genera are characterized by the largest of the three intervals of the tetrachord:

## Diatonic

A diatonic tetrachord has a characteristic interval that is less than or equal to half the total interval of the tetrachord (or approximately 249 cents: セントは2つの周波数の比。平均律の半音の間隔は100セント。オクターヴ(2つの音の周波数比が2:1)は12半音1200セント).

This characteristic interval is usually slightly smaller (approximately 200 cents), becoming a **whole tone**. Classically, the diatonic tetrachord consists of two intervals of a tone and one of a **semitone**, e.g. A–G–F–E.

## Chromatic

A chromatic tetrachord has a characteristic interval that is greater than about half the total interval of the tetrachord, yet not as great as four-fifths of the interval (between about 249 and 398 cents).

Classically, the characteristic interval is a minor third (approximately 300 cents), and the two smaller intervals are e

## Enharmonic

An enharmonic tetrachord has a characteristic interval that is greater than about four-fifths the total tetrachord interval.

Classically, the characteristic interval is a ditone or a major third,<sup>[2]</sup> and the two smaller intervals are quarter tones, e.g. A–G



## テトラコルド(もしくはTetrachord「テトラコード」)

古代ギリシア語のτετράχορδον(テトラコルドン)より。「4つの弦」の意)は、音楽理論において、4つの音による音列を指す用語である。

古代ギリシアの音楽理論では、完全四度の音程を3つの音程で区切ることで得られるテトラコルドが音組織の基礎であり、音程の構成から、ディアトノン、クローマティコン、エンハルモニオンの3種類。ディアトノンのテトラコルドは、上の2つの全音とその下の1つの半音の音程で構成されており、同様にクローマティコンは上の短三度と下の2つの半音、エンハルモニオンは上の長三度と下の半音よりも狭い2つの音程から成っていた。現在の全音階はディアトノンのテトラコルドに由来している。

この概念の拡張例として、小泉文夫による日本の旋法の理論がある。この理論においては、完全四度の枠内に挿入される音の数は、通常の2音ではなく1音とされる。例えば、沖縄音階「ドミファソシド」は、擬似テトラコルド「ドミファ」と「ソシド」を積み重ねたものとして理解することができる。

# Pythagorean tuning (ピタゴラス音律)

**Pythagorean tuning** is a system of musical tuning in which the frequency ratios of all intervals are based on the ratio 3:2. This ratio, also known as the "pure" perfect fifth, is chosen because it is one of the most consonant and easiest to tune by ear and because of importance attributed to the integer 3. As Novalis put it, "The musical proportions seem to me to be particularly correct natural proportions.

In Greek music it was used to tune tetrachords and the twelve tone Pythagorean temperament was developed by medieval music theorists using the same method of tuning in perfect fifths, however there is no evidence that Pythagoras himself went beyond the tetrachord.

## ピタゴラス音律 (参考)

ピタゴラス音律(ピタゴラスおんりつ)は、音階の全ての音と音程を周波数比3:2の純正な完全五度の連続から導出する音律である。ピタゴラス音律は初期ルネサンスまでの西洋音楽の標準的な音律であり、また中国や日本の伝統音楽の音律も同様の原理に基づくものである(三分損益法)。ピタゴラス音律では純正な五度と四度の音程が得られるが、三度と六度は純正にならない。ルネサンス音楽において三度と六度の使用が増えると、五度を狭めることによって三度をより純正に近づける中全音律が普及した。

# ZEUS AND ATHENA

- Under the influence of ancient Greek theory, music was thought to be an expression of an orderliness of the cosmos and was associated with mathematics and knowledge.
- **In Greek mythology, Zeus and his two brothers, Poseidon and Hades, divided the universe. Poseidon became ruler of the oceans and the seas, while Hades became ruler of the kingdom of the dead: the Underworld. Zeus became supreme god of all heaven and earth.**
- **Athena was her father's favorite child. She possessed great skill in warfare, and great wisdom.**



## The music of ancient Rome

Ancient Rome was a cosmopolitan society where some of the traits of the people such as the Etruscans, Greeks and Egyptians were mixed. The Greek culture were integrated in Roman culture and education. Greek scholars and arts spreaded throughout the empire.

Romans were fascinated by temples and mystical religious cults coming from Egypt. This cult includes worships of Isis, the Egyptian goddess of fertility. Art and culture was associated with the upper classes. The elite spends money to patronize the arts and craftsmen to decorate their houses.



# THE ZLITEN MOSAIC IS A ROMAN FLOOR MOSAIC FROM ABOUT THE 2ND CENTURY AD.

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musicians playing a Roman *tuba*, a pipe organ (*hydraulic*), and a pair of *cornua*.



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## デーモドコス ( DĒMODOKOS )

- **the blind minstrel**  
**Demodocus sings about**  
**Odysseus and Achilles at**  
**Troy, playing the harp**  
**during the feast at Troy.**



ギリシア神話の人物。楽人で、視力と引き換えにムーサイから歌の才能を授けられた。

アルキノオス王がオデュッセウスのために開いた会食の席で、トロイア戦争でのアキレウスとオデュッセウスの口論の物語を歌う