

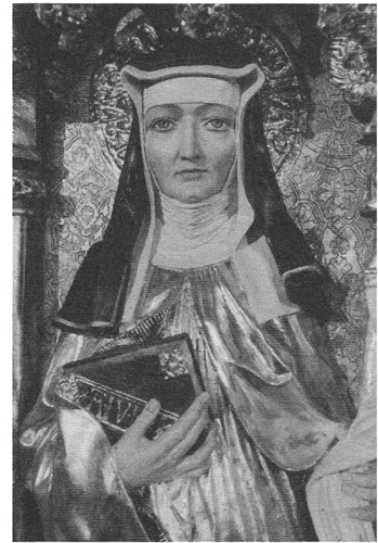
Hildegard von Bingen

Born: _____ Died: _____

What I composed	Orchestra	Concerto	Chamber Music	Keyboard	Opera	Theater/Film	Ballet	Band	Choral	Vocal Solos
Hildegard von Bingen										

Hildegard Factoids:

- Hildegard became a _____ at age 15.
- Hildegard claims her music came to her in _____
- During Hildegard's time, music for the church consisted of _____ which were sung by male monks.
- Hildegard was the first composer to write music to be sung by _____ voices.
- Hildegard's music is known as _____ chant, the type of chant that was used in the church at that time. (Gregorian chant came later). Her music was for God.
- _____ is a type of vocal music with no accompaniment.
- Hildegard wrote music set to church texts, as well as music set to her own _____.
- Hildegard wrote an encyclopedia on _____.



- 1098:** Birth of Hildegard von Bingen; French physician Nicolas Provost writes *Antidotes*, a collection of more than 2500 prescriptions for the treatment of disease.
- 1100:** Native Americans are using the canoe regularly.
- 1120:** The wimple, a fine veil worn by women over the head and wound around the shoulders, becomes fashionable in England.
- 1131:** Pope Innocent II at Reims, France crowns Louis, the son of King Louis VI of France, as king; he rules with his father as joint king.
- 1143:** Robert of Chester and Hermann the Dalmatian make the first translation of the Koran into Latin.
- 1154:** Henry II Plantagenet is crowned as king of England founding the Plantagenet dynasty.
- 1162:** Thomas á Becket, Chancellor to King Henry II of England, is consecrated as archbishop of Canterbury.
- 1179:** Death of Hildegard von Bingen; before her death she writes *Physica*, a closely observed encyclopedia of natural history.

“
The oldest, truest, most beautiful organ of music, the origin to which alone our music owes its being, is the human voice.
 –Richard Wagner
 ”

Listen!

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) Kyrie Eleison



Hildegard von Bingen was a nun who became the abbess, or leader, of a Benedictine monastery in Bingen, Germany. The Benedictines were, among other things, musicians of the Roman Catholic Church. Hildegard's music was performed by the nuns in this Benedictine monastery. To Hildegard, serving God was her most important duty, and one of her best ways to do so was through composing music. She believed that every song she composed, every vision, every poem, was the result of God speaking through her.

Hildegard's music was innovative, and her compositions do not conform to musical styles of her time. Although she wrote music for established texts used in church, she also composed music set to her own original poetry. All of her music is meant to be sung and it falls under the general heading of **chant** (sometimes called **plainsong** chant). The most well known form of chant is Gregorian Chant written during the rule of Pope Gregory from 590-604 in Rome, Italy. Other forms of chant include Ambrosian in Milan, Italy, Gallican in France, and Mozarabic in Spain.

All chant is vocal music that is sung without any accompaniment. The simple melodies are sung in unison and are a musical form of prayer. Most chant music was composed for and performed by men. Hildegard's abbey in Bingen, Germany consisted of about fifty women, and her music was written and performed by these nuns. The women sang in church for several hours each day so there was a great need for Hildegard to compose a large volume of music. Her form of chant is very colorful, using a large melodic range. Hildegard was a truly remarkable woman and she is considered one of the greatest female composers of all time.

The Listening Example is a Kyrie, a section of the Roman Catholic mass. You will hear the opening section of the piece. There are four melodies in this section. When more than one melody occurs in a piece, musicians label the melodies with letters: A, B, C, D, and so on. In this example, listen for each of the melodies. Sometimes a melody is sung by a soloist, and sometimes by a small group of singers. There is no accompaniment. Singing without any accompaniment is called *a cappella* singing. Hear how the melodies flow.

TIMING

“

Song is man's
sweetest joy.

—Musaeus (c. 900 B.C.)

”

- :01 The “A” melody.
- :14 The “B” melody.
- :27 A repeat of the “A” melody. The “B” melody repeats at :39.
- :53 Another repeat of the “A” melody. The “B” melody repeats at 1:03.
- 1:13 The “C” melody is introduced. This melody has a higher note than either of the previous melodies. Listen for it.
- 1:33 The “D” melody is introduced. This melody goes lower than any of the previous melodies.
- 1:43 A repeat of the “C” melody.