# Repertories with special needs vs. Common Western Notation (CMN)

Music 253/CS 275A Stanford University

## Written representations of music

- Common Western notation (CMN)
  - References specific pitches and relative durations
  - Assumes regularity of meter
  - Has numerous graphical conventions
  - Is flexible and extensible (up to a point)
  - Potential includes hundreds (or thousands) or graphical objects
  - Has numerous organizational conventions (scores, parts, etc.)
  - Meaning of given object often conferred contextually



# Written representations of music

#### Western non-common

- A. Neumes: specifies relative pitches, often in patterned groups associated with particular words or syllables
- B. Mensural notation: differentiates multiple organizational hierarchies for meter and duration
- C. Tablature: pitch and note onset information tied to gestural info
- D. Music since 1950: arbitrary requirements for irregular meter, unusual tunings, unusual gestures
- E. Braille MN: tactile output of binary representation; several methods of organization and national dialects

#### A. Neumes







From the *Carmina Burana* (Bavarian State Library <u>Hss Cgm 4660</u>, Munich

http://daten.digitale-

 $\frac{sammlungen.de/\sim db/0008/bsb00085130/images/index.html?id=000851}{30\&groesser=\&fip=eayaxseayafsdrxsxdsydxdsydyztsxsfsdr\&no=1\&seite=191}$ 

- *Staves*: usually 4-line
- *Notes*: shapes not standardized
- *Durations*: not explicit
- *Lyrics* (lang.): mainly Latin
- *Lyrics* (script): special fonts, diacriticals

# Mensuration signs

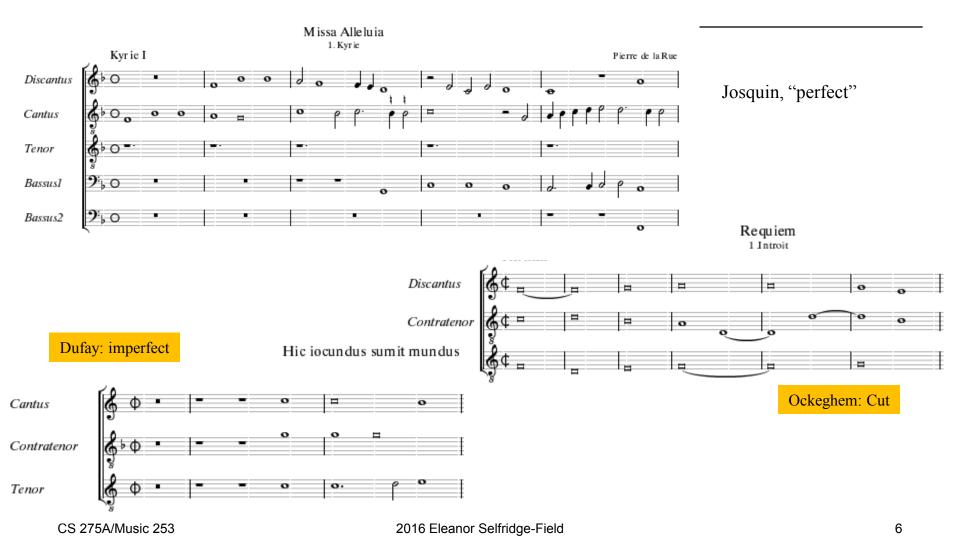
#### Measurement, grouping

#### Mensuration signs

Ten	npus	Prolatio	Sign	Semibreves	Minims	Modern		
, 1611	ipus					1:4	1:2	1:1
perfec	tum	maior	$\odot$	000	W W W	9/8	9/4	9/2
perfec	tum	minor	0	000	111111	3/4	3/2	3/1
imperf	fectum	maior	•	00	III III	6/8	6/4	6/2
imperf	fectum	minor	С	00	₩ ₩	2/4	2/2	2/1

#### B. Mensural notation

#### Metrical hierarchies



# C. Fretted-instrument tablature



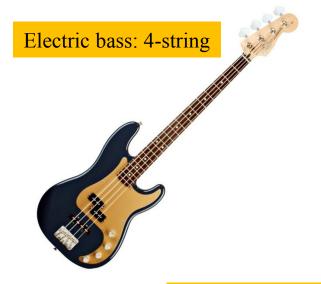


Six-string grid
Duration separated
Many graphical dialects



Lute

# C. Tablature (guitars)







Russian 7-string

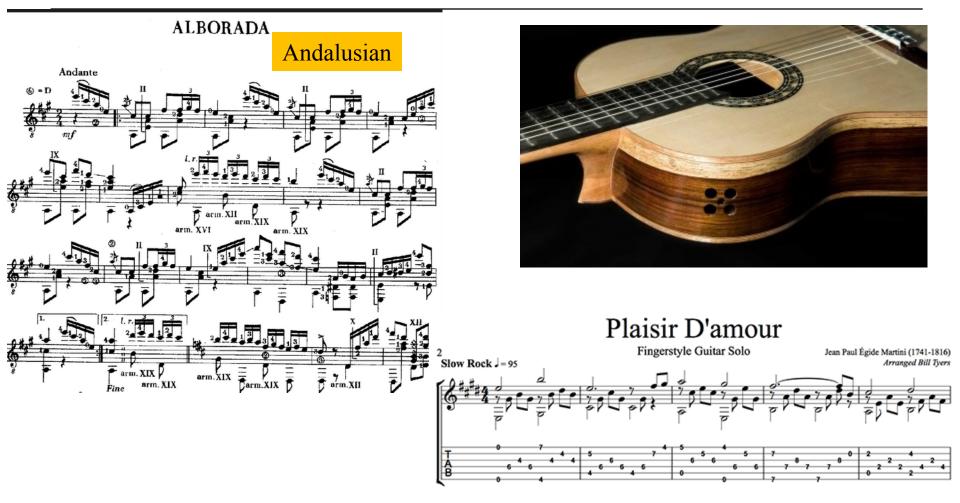


French 5-string



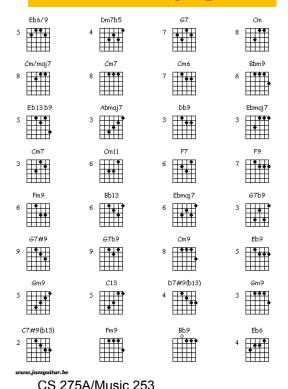
Guitarron (Mariachi)

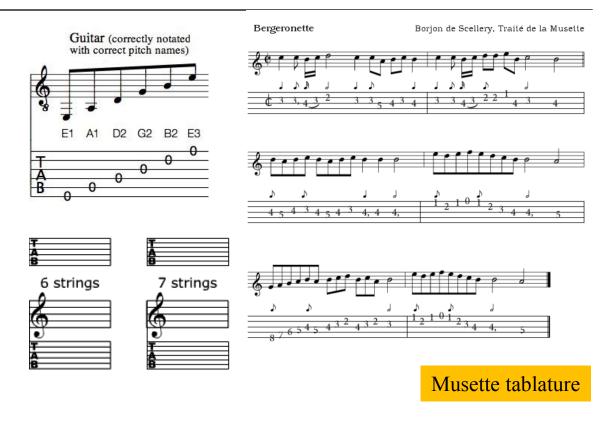
# C. Classical guitar



#### C. Tablature as....

- As pictographs
- As numeric codes
- As other graphs



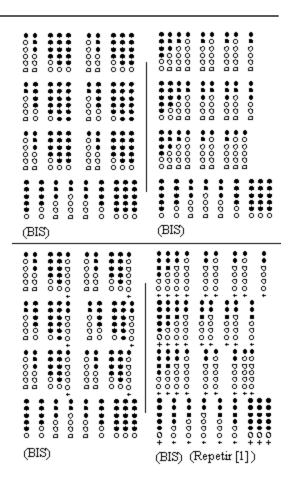


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_guitar\_tablature\_software http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Guitar/Tablature

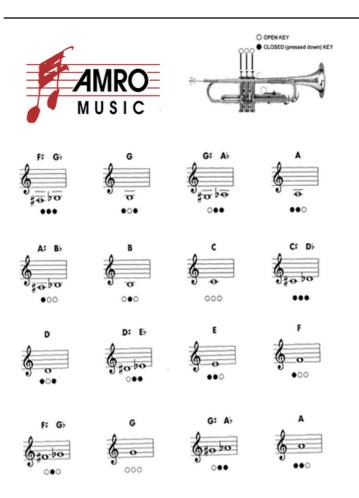
# C. Wind and keyboard tablatures

Recorder tablature





# C. Trumpet tablature





#### C. Anatolian folk instruments





# Yang qin (zither)



Map showing major sites, cities, and relative locations ancient

Neolithic Period ca.7000- 2000 B.C.

Bronze Age ca.2000-500B.C.

Shang dynasty ca. 1600-1050 B.C.

Zhou dynasty 1050-221 B.C.

Western Zhou 1050-771 B.C.

Eastern Zhou 771-221 B.C.

Warring States Period 480-221 B.C.

Qin dynasty 221-206 B.C.

Han dynasty 206 B.C.-A.D. 220

Western Jin dynasty A.D. 265-316

Tang dynasty A.D. 618-907

Song dynasty A.D. 960-1279

Northern Song A.D. 960-1127

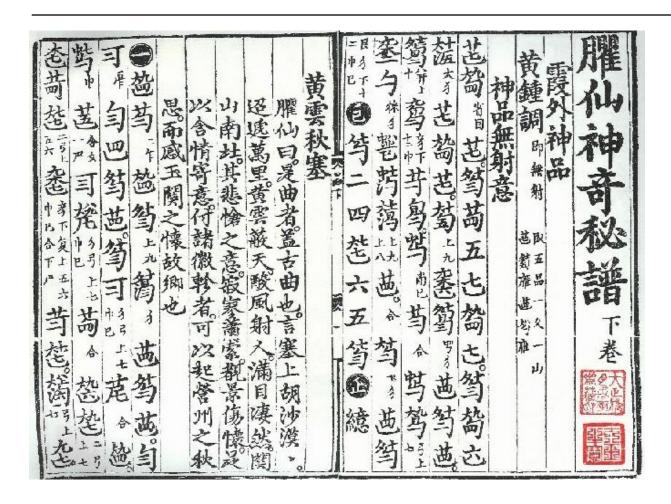


Zhu, 5<sup>th</sup> cent. BCE





# Guqin notation (tablature)



- -Vol. number
- -Seals of the owner
- -Title of volume
- -Tuning, method of tuning
- -name of modal "preface"
- -tablature of modal preface

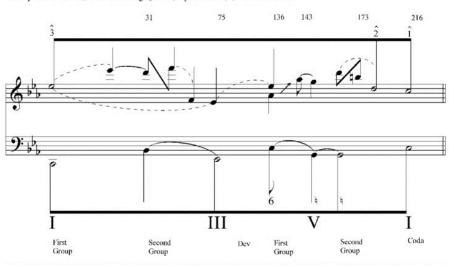
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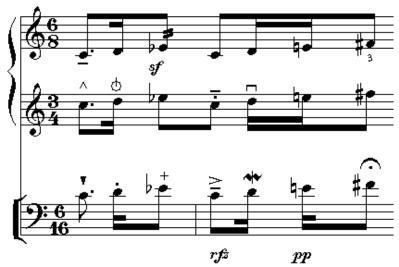
- -title of piece
- -origins of piece
- -tablature for piece

#### D. Recent music

- Articulation marks
- Compound meters
- Polymeters
- Quarter-tones
- Off-staff presentations

Music Theory Spectrum Volume 16, Number 1, Spring 1994
Peter H. Smith, "Brahms and Schenker: A Mutual Response to Sonata Form"
Example 12. Brahms, C-minor String Quartet, Op. 51 No. 1, i; Tonal Structure





# D. Systems of arbitrary complexity

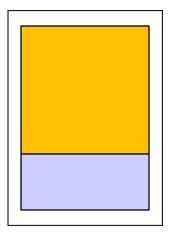
Hyo-Shin Na's "Rain Study"



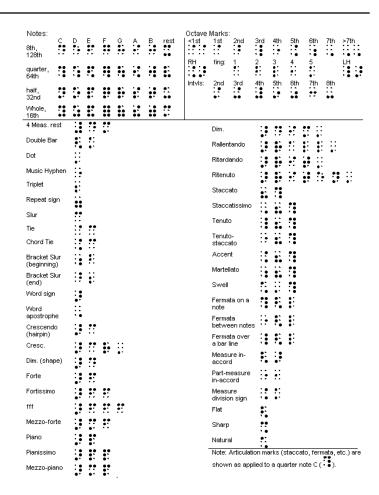
Typeset in SCORE by Craig Sapp (c. 2008)

#### E. Braille music notation

- Requires impact printing (raised "cells" of information)
- Two chapters on Braille
   MN in Beyond MIDI

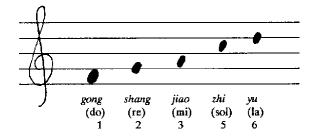


Cells 1, 2, 4, 5: "data" bits Cells 3, 6: switches

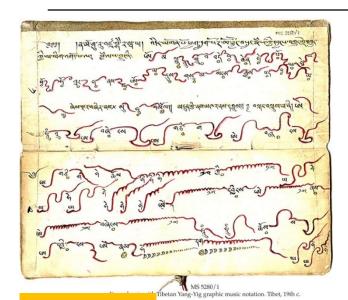


#### Non-Western music

- Tuning systems unpredictable
  - Ambiguities of tuning, temperament, scale degrees
- Non-Western instruments (gesture)
  - String
  - Wind
  - Percussion
  - Tuned percussion
- Different understandings of pitch and duration



## Other special-needs repertories



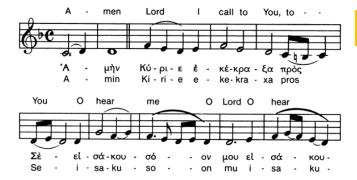
Tibetan chant

Cheironomic notation

Τῷ Σαββάτῳ ἐσπέρας. ἡ Πα.

Κυρι ε ε κραξα α προ ο ος σε ε η ει

σα κου σο ο ον μου η εί σα α κου ου σο



Greek Orthodox chant

#### Combinations of the above

Δεῖγμα τοῦ πῶς γράφονται τά κείμενα μετά μουσικῆς εἰς  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ 

Greek Orthodox chant in Braille music notation

# SCORE for special notations

- Has extensive drawing capabilities
  - Anticipated PostScript in use of splines
- Has a few "palettes" for special characters
  - Chant
  - Mensural notation
  - Tablatures (harp, trumpet, drum, guitar)
  - Large-print notation (for plotter) [no Braille MN]
- Legacy of large-print editions

# Maximum user control

Comes at price of parametric manipulation!