


Technology in Music History: The Internet and the Printing Press

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The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several decorative elements consisting of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water or sound waves. These circles are rendered in a lighter shade of blue and are arranged in a way that suggests movement or a sequence of events.

Parallel Technologies

- Printing Press from 1450-1600
 - Woodblocks, engraving, letterpress
 - Printed sheet music

- Internet from 1992 to present
 - Music sites, file sharing networks, electronic music stores
 - MP3s and similar file formats

Music in Early Renaissance

- Music copied by hand
- Church and upper class held control over musicians
- Traveling musicians



<http://clairelea.canalblog.com/neumes.jpg>

The printing press

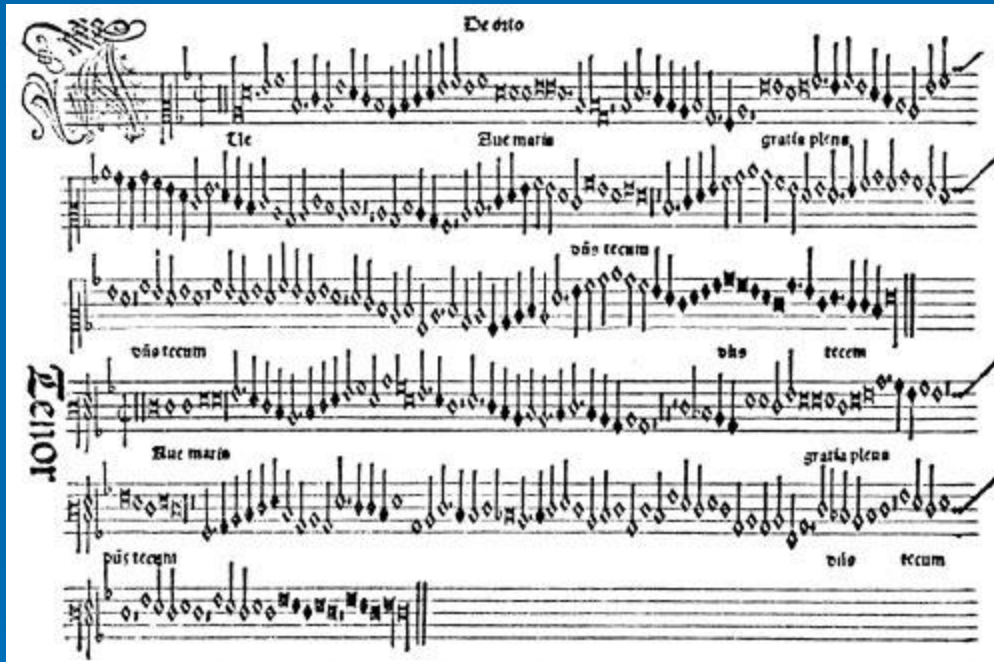


Image: <http://www.juliantrubin.com/bigten/bigtenimages/gutenbergpress.jpg>

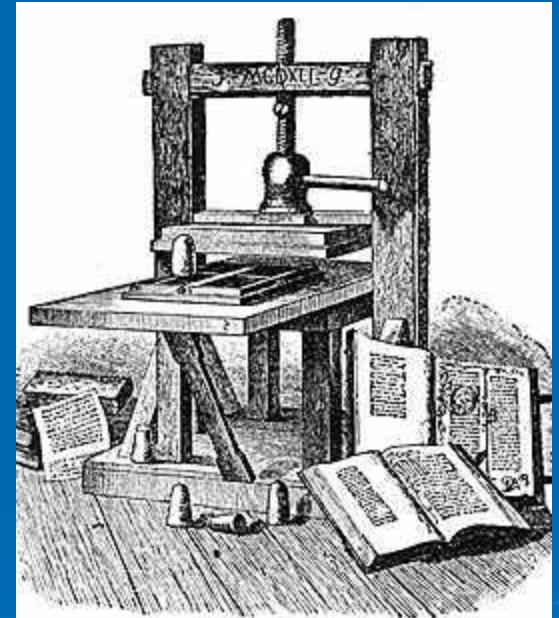


Image:
<http://www.juliantrubin.com/bigten/bigtenimages/gutenbergpress.jpg>

Effects of the Printing Press

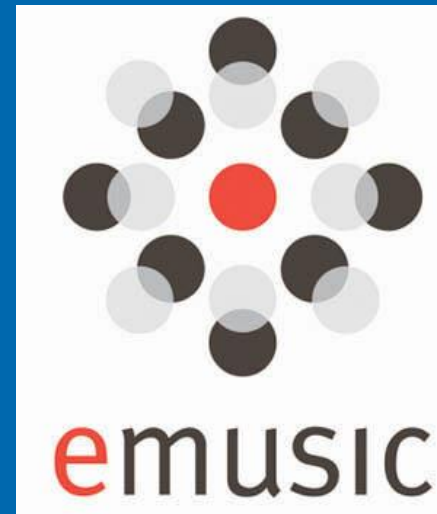
- No more patrons
- Entertainment system
- New composers
- Popular composers

Music on the Internet, 1992

- Large file formats
- MP3 compression algorithm
- FTP servers
- Newsgroups and email
- Interference by RIAA

Some Baby Steps

- Internet Underground Music Archive
- Liquid Audio, 1993
- MP3.com, 1996
- eMusic, 1997



...and the Dam Breaks

- Napster, 1999
- True P2P software clients, 2001
- iTunes, 2003



Effects of the Internet (et. AI.)

- Recording companies have less control
- Listeners and fans connect through websites
- New bands can actually make it
- New world of music for listeners



Conclusion:

Disruption of Established Power

- Middle class could buy music or commission works
- Musicians could break free of court and church
- Bands and artists could play music without a recording contract and radio support

Conclusion: Increased Popularity

- Composers could send their works throughout Europe and North America
- Bands could use the Internet to find niche markets
- New composers could write and publish their songs
- New bands could find listeners and gather a fan base

Conclusion:

New Connections to Music

- In Renaissance, music was spread through Europe and North America
- Listeners learned to play instruments
- Today, people listen to new music because its widely and freely available