

Aspects regarding music and cult in early Christianity

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We don't have manuscripts with notations regarding music in the early Christian period. But we have, instead, literary references to cult and music, in antiquity and there is a fragment from a papyrus, called Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 1786, from the third century, which contain a fragment from a Trinitarian hymn from Egypt. From there a musical fragment survived to our days. The Greek text is surmounted by letters who appear as a kind of musical notation, decipherable with the aid from other contemporary Greek treatises. As precious as it is, we don't know if this hymn is representative for the music from that period. The Christian authors from antiquity denounced the majority of them, the pagan musical display, focusing on musical instruments. On the other part, there was very familiar in the early Church the synagogue music, involving the chanting of Psalms. The majority of the Fathers of the Church accepted musica as a liberal art, music that was very apart from the music of the pagan cult. There are references, in the Christian authors, referring of the Christian music itself, precursor of Psaltic music.

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