

Caroline Price, 19-9-21 transcript

Plain chant is Gregorian Chant

Pope Gregory organised the chants, he had a big assembly with others and tidied it up, saying you can do this and this. You can't do that. All songs had been plain chants up till then

The idea of using the voices together, brings you together and affirms where you stand with the rest of the universe

You say all your stuff but you are saying it together

At this point they didn't have beat or rhythm

They recognised that beat and rhythm, which was in your limbs, grounded you to the earth, and they wanted their mind to be on god

So therefore their singing of plain chant had (no, it had) the rhythm of the words, but it didn't have regular rhythms and beats.

And they operate in the Greek modes, which are older than major and minor scales. Our folk music in this country (England) is very much in that mode still.

There was a rise and fall of the phrase and you speed up on certain words

Nobody told the people they were out of fashion, they just kept singing.

There is a rise and fall of the phrase, and you speed up on certain words. And (in the Latin,) all plain chant was in Latin, because Latin was the language of the church.

How everybody else felt about that I have no idea they used to go and stand in church on Sundays and they would hear all this going on and they would be spoken to and they would not understand a word of it, it made them feel good.

The way children learn to use sound is a microcosm how the human race has

...thinking about the modes that plain chant was sung in

most people today they hear a scale or pattern of notes squashed by Pythagorean squashing the intervals.

This is why I run a choir where we don't have accompaniment, because I want the fifth to be really open.

The thing is when you work in modes you have to accept that the intervals between the notes are slightly different in each mode, they have a different flavour. These fabulous singers called Voces 8, they use tuning like that

Is this what would be called the microtonal sounds?

You couldn't have a modern orchestra with all the different instruments that all have different tuning systems unless you worked to this

Whilst before you wouldn't have attempted to have a wood instrument and a wind instrument to be in tune with each other necessarily

I run <http://www.streamofsound.org/about.html>

Just to be able to work free from that invention of the 16th C

Call and response: one person sing the one line and the others would sing back

Letting the sounds opening them, they would have been singing before they understood

You are singing for yourself, that would keep them very healthy

the activity of singing keeps people healthy

(looking for a book about plain chant)

example of a monastery stopping singing and monks falling ill, brought back the plain chant it's the rhythm of the breathing, and the use of one's breath