Terms & Definitions

Antiphonal – Alternating between two groups of singers
Antithetical parallelism – 2nd phrase contrast with the 1st phrase
Complementary parallelism – Subsequent phrases extend the thought of the 1st phrase
Canticle – A song other than the Psalms that is found in Scripture.
Meter – In music, a regularly recurring pattern of accents (beat or pulse).
Metrical – A tune that matches or follows a meter.
Monophonic – A tune/song which has only a single melodic line (without harmony, one note at a time)
Responsorial – Alternating between a soloist and a group of singers
Synonymous parallelism – 2nd phrase says the same thing as the 1st phrase but in different words
Troparian – Greek hymn form; initially a single-stanza response to psalms

New Terms:

Melisma – The singing of a single syllable of text while moving between multiple notes. Also, a tune which uses melisma.

Sequence – A sing with a single opening line of text followed by several pairs of text then ending with a final single line. Originally the pairs were non-metrical and not rhymed.

Trope – A textual and/or musical addition to a Latin chant. Took one of three forms: 1) a melisma, 2) additional text, 3) additional text and music.