

## Theories of music origin

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In ancient civilizations music was of great importance. In most countries musicians were servants of religion. Skills to play musical instruments considered to be a godlike gift.

Ancient mythology describes the process of music formation. Prometheus gave people crafts, reading, writing and culture. The legend of god Pan and nymph Sirinx tells us about the pan pipe appearance. Other myths describe magic musical instruments which helped ancient gods and heroes make wonders (like Orpheus lyre).

Several theories of the origin of music appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Herbert Spencer, an English scientist, offered a so called «linguistic» theory. He supposed that music and human speech are closely related. When human speech became emotionally coloured (sorrow, triumph), it «began to sound», obtained intonation. Later intonation (or «music of speech») was transferred to musical instruments.

Charles Darwin, famous English naturalist, also supposed that there was a connection between music appearance and emotionally coloured speech. But according to him, speech became coloured only with love (rivalry between males). However, both of these theories make no allowances for rhythmic organization.

German researcher Karl Bücher in his work «Labor and Rhythm» supposed that labor, music and poetry were something entire and music (especially rhythm), connected those elements. Music helped people synchronize their labor.

Carl Stumpf, a German music theorist, wrote a work «The Origins of Music». He suggested that music had appeared in a mountainous country, when cattlemen communicated with the help of acoustical signals. Carl Stumpf didn't take into account intonation.

Curt Sachs, German musicologist, suggested that a certain place existed on the Earth, wherefrom culture spread.

There were also several different theories of music origin, including onomatopoeic theory and theory, which suggested that music appeared from ritual dances.

Today, music continues its developing. New forms are appearing, bounds between various music genres and styles, as well as music and other forms of art are blending. But music, as it has always been, continues to be the universal language of communication between people.

