

# Sounds for the soul

## Music in St Gall manuscripts

Summer Exhibition  
Abbey Library of St Gall  
29 April to 9 November 2025

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Baroque Hall

Music moves people deeply. In the monastery, singing helps monks and nuns lift up their souls to God. The monophonic chants of plainsong seem perfectly suited for this. Outside the monasteries, however, music evolved in different ways. There was polyphonic singing, yodelling, and instrumental music-making. Were these developments threatening devotion or could they be integrated into monastic music?

In the Abbey of St Gall, abbots and monks have continually wrestled to find the right answer to the question of what music may, and may not, do.

**Opening hours**  
Monday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

**Admission prices**  
Entire Abbey District CHF 18|16|12|10

**Audio guide to the Abbey District and the old town**  
D|E|F|I CHF 5

**Public guided tours**  
Daily at 1 pm, in German  
Bookings for guided tours and information tours@stiftsbezirk.ch, Phone +41 71 227 34 19

**Exhibition catalogue**  
Available from the shop or via our website

**Address**  
Abbey Library, Klosterhof 6d  
9000 St Gall, Switzerland

[www.stiftsbibliothek.ch](http://www.stiftsbibliothek.ch)  
[www.stiftsbezirk.ch](http://www.stiftsbezirk.ch)  
[www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch](http://www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch)



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WELTKULTURERBE  
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI  
Bundesamt für Kultur BAK

Kanton St. Gallen  
Kulturförderung



STISSLOS

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Stiftsbezirk St. Gallen  
Welterbe seit 1983



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Das Nibelungenlied.  
Handschrift B  
Eingetragen in das  
internationale Register  
Memory of the World seit  
2009



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Dokumentarisches Erbe  
der ehemaligen Abtei  
St. Gallen  
Eingetragen in das  
internationale Register  
Memory of the World seit  
2017

**Image on the front:**  
Pope Gregory the Great, inspired by the Holy Spirit, teaches a group of singers choral singing. Miniature by the illuminator Nikolaus Bertschi in a large-format Gradual from the Abbey of St Gall, c.1500/1520. Abbey Library of St Gall, Cod. Sang. 1767, p. 1.