

The History of SHEET MUSIC

Origins

3000 B.C. - 300 AD:

Early versions of sheet music developed and used in ancient Mesopotamia

Used shapes to represent notes, similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics

1st Century AD:

Earliest known example of a complete written song with lyrics.

Named: Seiklos Epitaph

Carved on a tombstone in Turkey

5th Century AD:

Greek composers made sheet music with letters and symbols

Symbols represented pitch and duration of the notes

Evolution

Early 19th Century:

Sheet music very popular in United States

Sheets created using engraved plates and lithography

1860s

Music publishers begin printing advertisements on blank music pages

Companies and newspapers issue free sheet music as advertising tools

Early 20th Century:

OPEN

American public begins purchasing sheet music of songs they see performed live

Sheet music sold to the public displays animated covers with photos and illustrations

Many covers reflect transportation themes, as musicians and performers traveled by rail



Present Day

Sheet music publication industry sees revenues over **\$240M annually**

Vital to helping performers, conductors and other musicians remember musical pieces.

In 1998, Musicnotes.com launches online, digitizing the world's largest array of officially licensed sheet music, all available for instant download and printing

Early 2000s: Musicnotes releases **100% free** iPad, iPhone, Android and desktop apps for instant access to sheet music files anywhere.

