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MUSIC TERMS

by Arthur Houle

- Abendmusik: Annoying oversized old sheet music that always creases and falls off the piano.
- Accompaniment: Complimentary after-dinner mint supplied by your company.
- Affannato: (It.) Have another (eg. aforementioned mint).
- Bibliography: Study of ancient etchings on baby bibs.
- Boogie: (1) Ghost. (2) Nose secretion.
- BWV: Bach's car.
- Caccia: What kids shout during "hide and seek."
- Canzona: "Canned" Renaissance music invented by Zona del Rye, popularizer of the earliest pizza delis (see *HAM* on "Rye").
- Carillon: The kind of baggage they let you take on the plane.
- Castanets: What fishermen yell just before a tuna catch.
- Cavata: Italian tooth decay.
- Cymbalist: Last name of Efrem.
- Dulcimer: Boring after-glow of barbecue grill.
- Étude: (Fr.) Betrayal. (As in, "Étude, Brutus?").
- Fauxbourdon: (Fr.) When you mistakenly order the wrong drink.
- Ground bass: An opera stampede.
- Hexachord: Jinxed triad.
- Iambic: Egotist with delusions of being a fountain pen.
- Ludas Tonalis: Latin for Hindemith's ludicrous tonalities.
- Lute: Crazy medieval musician.
- Madrigal: Crazy female medieval musician.
- Madame Butterfly: How you address a 2,000 pound butterfly.
- Melismatic: Chronic coughing and wheezing in musician named Mel.
- Movable do: Wildlife capable of relocation.
- Organum: That annoying background noise you get when you turn the electric organ on.
- Orgel: Sound of a German gargling.
- Psalter: Directive to throw seasoning at female.
- Psaltery: What they convict you of for committing the aforementioned.
- Psalterium: Where they put you for doing the aforementioned.
- Clausulae: The specific section of the penal code which specifies execution as the appropriate punishment for committing the aforementioned.
- Psalmus: The prayer that is solemnly recited over you for committing the aforementioned.
- Psalmus idioticus: Ad nauseum perpetuation of psilly psalter jokes (see aforementioned).
- Riff: Sound that a preppy canine makes.
- Russian music: Music played at excessive speed.
- Sequence: Medieval philosophical inquiry into the roots of existence (to "seek whence" one came).
- Serialism: Act of vocalizing at breakfast.
- Sir Rhosis of de Livre: Upperclass medieval French alcoholic librarian.
- Viol: Disgusting.
- Viola: More disgusting.
- Viola d'Amour: Positively loathsome.
- Violetta: Vindictive correspondence.