

VOICES OF HISTORY SKU A

1066: (*Corde natus ex parentis*) Music 1'00" Script 2'20"

[T and B hum first two lines of *Corde natus*. S and A help T and B with props. P exits to change into French knight costume. The monks bring out a large candle and light it. One monk has a large scroll of music and a quill pen. They break into chant, processing into the audience.]

Corde natus ex parentis

[The monks return to stage center, and continue to chant the following.
(The pitch drops a minor 3rd to the tonic on final syl-la-bles, except for the "ah" of a-men, which is a cadential lowered 7th below the tonic. E.g. sol sol sol sol-mi; sol sol sol re-mi.)]

TB We are English monks from the eleventh cen-tur-y.

There is one Christian Church, and it is Catholic;
There are no Lutherans, Episcopalians or American Baptists;
There is not even an A-mer-i-ca!

As monks, we pray and sing most of the day
Because in the eleventh century there is nothing else to do,
Except, maybe, to prepare for the Cru-say-ades.

We can read, but most people cannot,
And all books are written out by hand, so they are called
manuscripts;
Until last year, there wasn't even a way of writing mu-sic.

Wow! What is that in the sky?
I think it might have been a comet.
That could be a bad omen. A-men.

[Norman knight appears, wearing helmet. He speaks.]

P Bon jour! je m'appelle Norman. S'il vous plaît, où est la toilette?

TB [Still chanting] What is this knight saying? What language is he speak-ing?

P O, merci! J'ai faim! Est-ce que vous avez des escargots?

TB Did he say something about Romanesque ar-chi-tech-ture?

P Est-ce que vous connaissez Guillaume le Conqueror?

TB I think his name is Norman, and we've been in-vad-ed! A-men.

[In costume, P steps forward for the next quiz question. All others remove costumes.]