

## Polyphony

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Making music probably started with a single human voice meandering, creating a melody on the spot, originating from a simple *hmm*. At some point, a second voice may have joined the first, creating the very special resonances of singing in unison. Then, at some point, the second voice started the same melodic line on a different note, producing even more special resonances. Much, much later, that second voice dared to sing another melody, along with the first and aware of the first, but different: a second voyage, occasionally meeting and greeting the first line before drifting off again, voices receiving and giving energy to one another while creating a very special texture. Then a third voice was added, and a fourth, and so on.

That music is known as “polyphony”: It is “horizontal” music, created by multiple melodic voices, ages apart from the “vertical,” more chord-based choral works of later centuries.

In the Europe of the 14th to the 16th centuries, Franco-Flemish singers and composers were similar to what Champions League soccer players are in our day: in demand by the rich and the wealthy. The most famous were traveling from Flanders to Burgundy, Italy, and Spain, creating music for chapels, churches, and courts. With my small group, we try to re-create the sounds and meaning of these 14th-century works from the Low Countries. We go back to the original manuscripts (see, for example, <http://alamirefoundation.org>)—handwritten and often incredibly beautiful—to study the very notation, re-create the music, and keep these works alive for posterity.

If you want to learn more, you can go to YouTube to hear our small group of amateurs perform an “Ave Maria” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dH21bhaxPI>) and the fragile but firm “Sans cuer dolens” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPkp0r4AtEc>), or you can listen to the 4 amazing professional singers of Capilla Flamenca (<http://www.capilla.be/EN/index.php>).

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*Quo Vadis?*

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## Quo Vadis?

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In April, *Clinical Chemistry* launched a new feature called “Quo Vadis?” (“Where Are You Going?”). This new section will allow young scientists (40 years of age and younger) the opportunity to express their opinions on the future of laboratory medicine. Each month, future leaders will be invited to answer a question in 100 words or less. The monthly question will be posted on the *Clinical Chemistry* Trainee Council website (<http://www.traineecouncil.org>), the *Clinical Chemistry* website (<http://www.clinchem.org>), and on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The question will be e-mailed to all members of the AACC Society for Young Clinical Laboratorians and the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists.

Some answers will be posted on the *Clinical Chemistry* Trainee Council website and published in *Clinical Chemistry*. Be a part of it!

### Question #2

How do you define success?

**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER AND A PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPH TO:**

<http://submit.clinchem.org>  
*Answers must be submitted by May 18.*