Slashes, Dashes, Points, and Squares: The Development of Musical Notation
Earliest Forms of Neumatic Notation
Solumus commune rerum facere omnes ex officia ministeriis suis, quando tempus sit, ut aliae aegrescent, aliae curantur.
“Written sources originating during that period show many signs of the continuing activities of oral processes along with written ones in the transmission of music, confirmation that writing was for a long time in support of, rather than in competition with, the oral performance tradition.”

Leo Treitler, “The Early History of Music Writing in the West”
Heightened Neumes
Early Four Line Staffs
“Hence, the time-values of the individual notes were indicated in the various shapes of their symbols as rectangles, squares, and diamonds, either by leaving them bare, or else by adding distinctive stems and later even flags.”

Curt Sachs, “Some Remarks about Old Notation”
“With the rise of instrumental music in the Baroque era, musical notation became more accurate and the specifications from the composer on how to perform his musical work became more detailed.”

References


