CONDUCTING:
HOW IT CAME TO BE

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• "Music Director Neal Gittleman inspires each listener’s imagination with his unique programming, in-depth comments, his easy-going style and infectious enthusiasm for music"
Conducting has become a huge part of music and its history; knowing conducting’s history, where it came from and how it evolved is a vital part to knowing how conducting became the profession it is today.
HISTORY

• Started in Early Greek Era 2500B.C.
• Cave/Tomb Paintings
• Time Beating
  • keep singers in time
  • clap and stomp or snap and stomp
• Cheironomy
  • Helped with pitch and rhythm
  • Used hand signs
HOW CONDUCTING CAME TO BE

Sumerian Feast 2700 B.C. to the accompaniment of music
HOW CONDUCTING CAME TO BE

Decorative painting in the tomb of Amenemhet, about 1500 B.C.
HOW CONDUCTING EVOLVED

- Physical conducting
  - “V” shaped
- Sign symbols:
  - Darga-submediant
  - Tevir-subtonic
  - Silluq-tonic
  - Merkha-supertonic
  - Tifha- median t
  - Atnah-subdominant
  - Miunah-dominant
HOW CONDUCTING EVOLVED

- 1680s- still referred to as cheironomy
- 1687- beat pattern close to 4/4
- 1700s- barred music

- 1700s four-beat pattern was developed
  - In both hands
- 1800-1900 three beat pattern developed
RESOURCES

- Bonner, Daniel. "Non-verbal Language, Gesture, and the Choral Conductor" (PhD diss., Claremont Graduate University, 2009).
RESOURCES

• Smith, Melville. "The Interpretation of Rhythm in Gregorian Chant According to the Theories of Solesmes." Bulletin of the American Musicological Society, no. 8 (1945).