

# Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Musical Examination

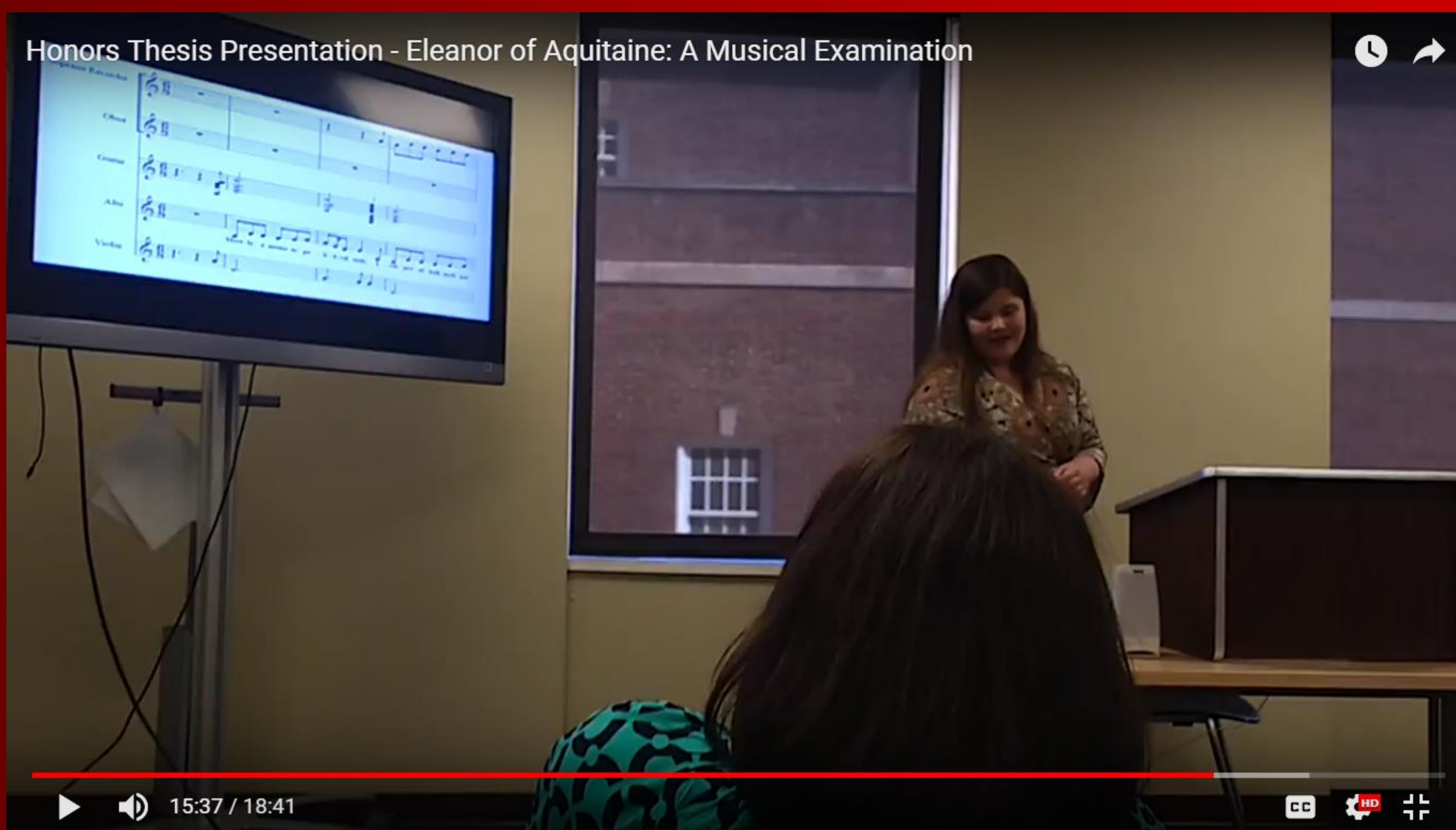
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## Purpose of Project

- The first purpose is to put forth a scholarly argument for both what motivated Eleanor to rebel with her sons and equipped her to do so.
- The second purpose is to make the argument accessible to a larger audience by tearing down the academic language barrier that prevents people from learning deeply and factually about Eleanor of Aquitaine.

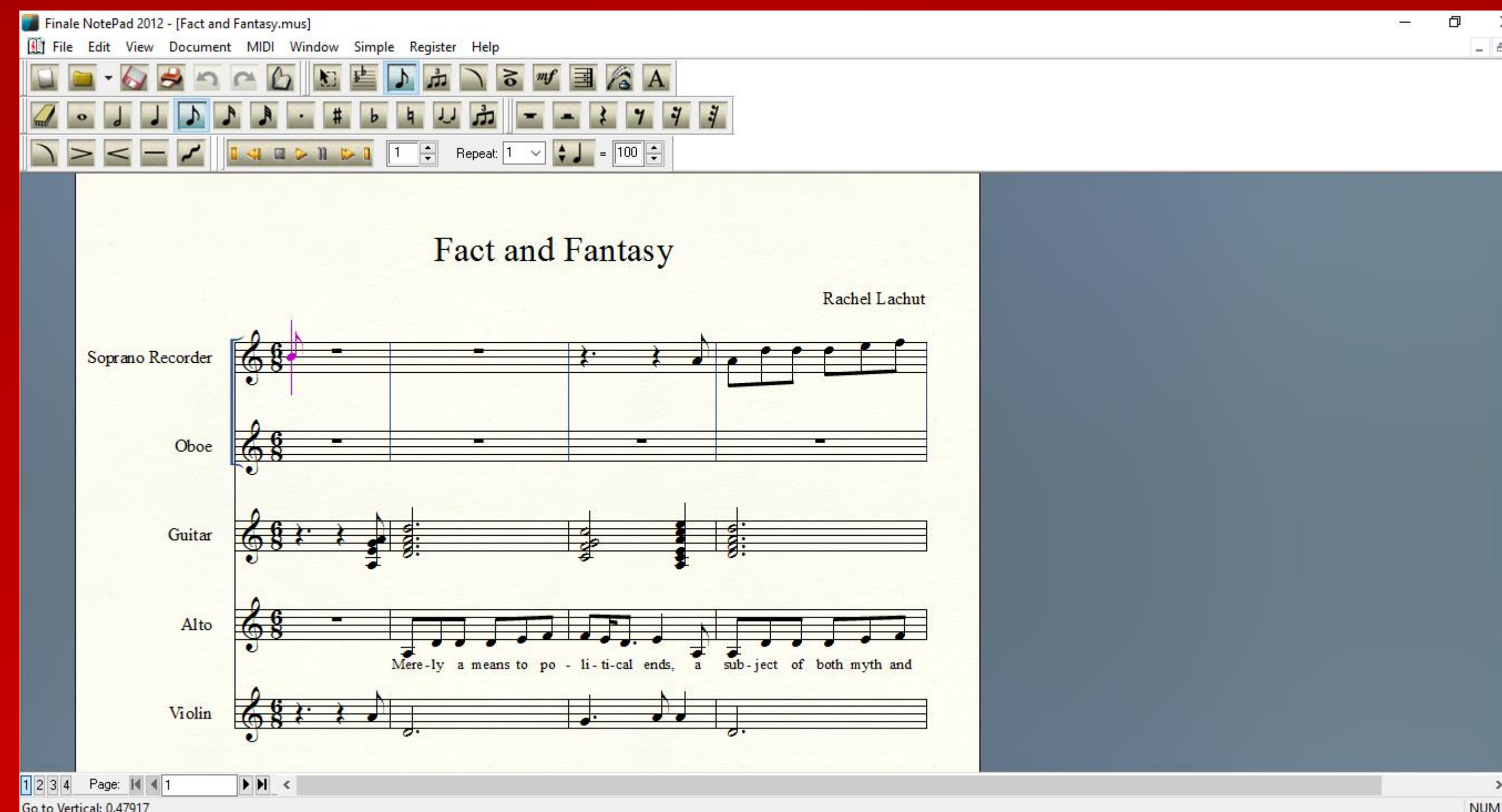
## Research Questions

- Why did Eleanor rebel with her sons against Henry II?
- In what ways has Eleanor of Aquitaine been mythologized over time?
- How does mediation of historical events influence public perception and historical study?
- How accessible is the historical reality of Eleanor's life in comparison to the modern myth?



## Creative Project

- Took the form of a medieval folk opera to make a historically-accurate work which appeals to a population who may not otherwise engage with accurate texts through the use of subject appropriate music.
- Intended to be viewed as "epic" through both the lyrics and music.
- Aspired to do for Eleanor of Aquitaine what Lin-Manuel Miranda did for Alexander Hamilton

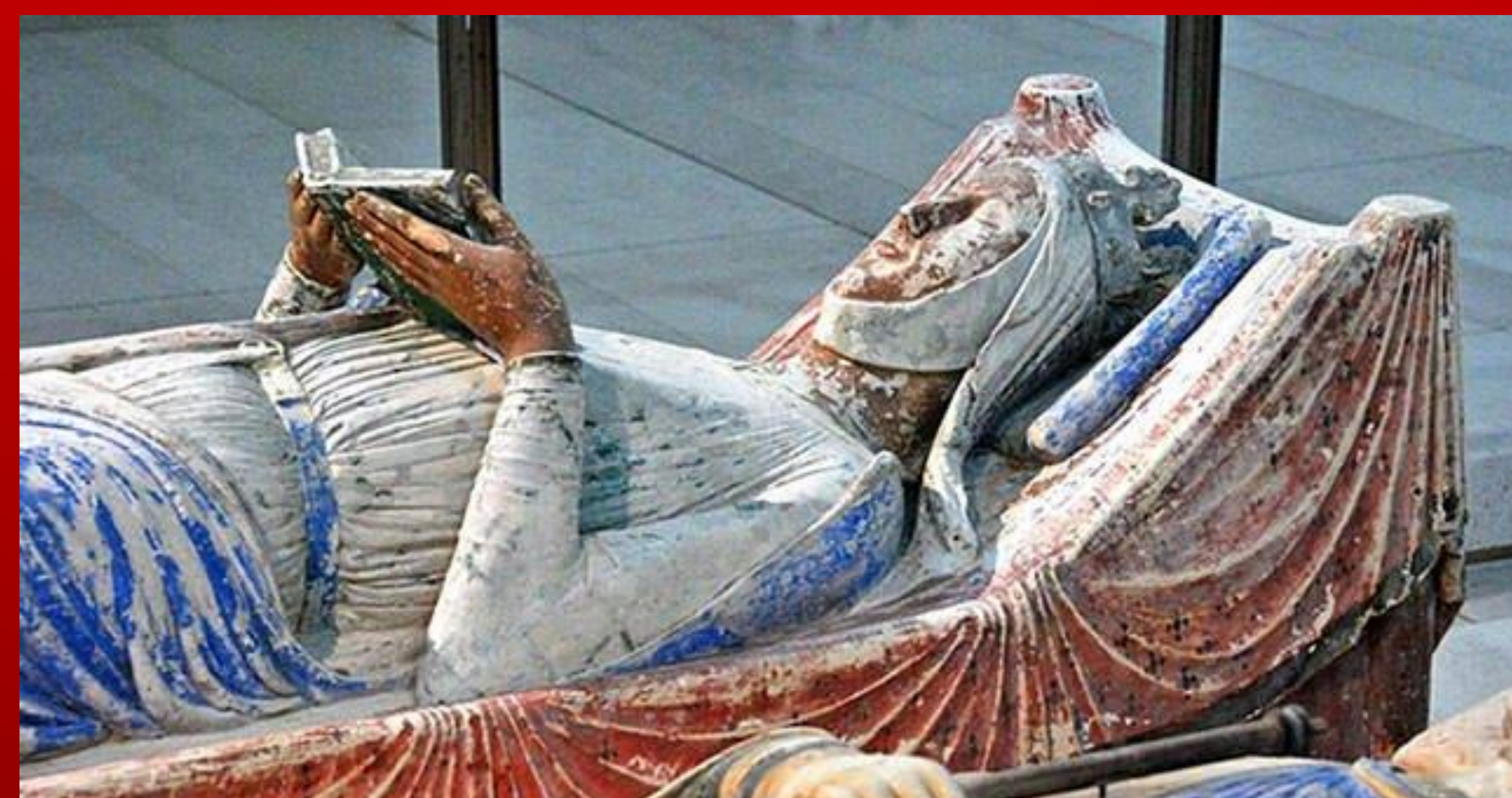


## Creative Process

- Limited by time and instrument choices in the software.
- Often wrote the lyrics concurrently with or before the music was composed, keeping a rhythm and musical trajectory in mind.
- Wrote paragraph summaries and specific notes from research, cited them, then rewrote the information in verse with footnote citations.
- Structured the creative work similar to an essay with and introduction, body songs to support the thesis statement and carry on the narrative, and background.

## Musical Influences

- Medieval Sacred and Secular Music
- Renaissance Sacred and Secular Music
- Film Score
- Classical Music
- Musical Theatre
- Folk Rock and Metal



## Eleanor and the Rebellion

- Lived from c.1124 to 1204 and was the wife of two kings, a mother to three kings, a patron of the arts, and the heir to, and perhaps primary ruling force of, an area that is the equivalent to nearly half of modern France.
- Inspired her sons to, and supported them in, rebellion against their father, her husband, Henry II.
- Based on her education, experience, and previous relationships, functioned as an early coordinator and instigator of the rebellion.

So many acts and charters for warring sons and father<sup>5</sup>

But for mine even they need my assent<sup>6</sup>

Often men go away to war, to learn, to train

When they are on conquest, I am the regent<sup>7</sup>

As this kingdom expands, more honor to our line

Not just new backwater for ambitious counts

Dominance o'er the Celts through wars and their mythologies<sup>8</sup>

Though tension for the Vexin, still it mounts<sup>9</sup>

I receive a cut of all rent paid to the king<sup>10</sup> and

I pass this wealthy land to my sons

Henry has acquired so much wealth in this time

I brought my own Feudal conglomeration<sup>11</sup>

As this kingdom expands more honor to our line

Not just backwater for ambitious counts

Dominance o'er Celts through war and mythologies

Though tension for the Vexin, still it mounts

## Selected Bibliography

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