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 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

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

Selected Bibliography