



## The mysterious chant of silence: Gregorian chants of the Solesmes Abbey



Gregorian chant was the official liturgical chant of the Roman Catholic Church, at the time it was the only form of religious song.

It was an anonymous sacred chant, usually sung by a choir (male or female) or by a soloist. It was intended to accompany the liturgical text in Latin.

It is still in use today in certain churches and religious communities, especially for the more sober ceremonies of the liturgy of the Roman Rite.

Today the chant is also appreciated for its aesthetic qualities, as a musical genre it has a very calming quality, inspiring inner calm and contemplation.

2010 is the millennium year of the Abbey of Saint Peter of Solesmes in the Sarthe, a part of the Benedictine confederation.

The origins of the church actually date back to the year 1010, in the Middle Ages.

It owes its reputation to Dom Guéranger who re-founded the Benedictine order in France in 1833, after the ban that had been imposed post Revolution.

It is also famous as one of the leading centres of the Liturgy and Gregorian chant.

Here we can share in the daily lives of monks who perpetuate the tradition of this 2000 year old sacred art... the Gregorian chant.

These reverential men are open-minded, active and even erudite.

As we accompany them in their work, their prayer and their study, we understand that this ancient space is still teeming with life.

**Directed by Régis GHEZELBASH** A documentary of 52'

*French version*  
*English version*

Digital Betacam 16/9