



# HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



Timeline				
1098	1113	1141	1150	1179
Born in Bermershein (Germany)	Becomes a Benedictine nun	Hildegard claims to receive a call from God to record her visions	Completes her first composition	Hildegard dies aged 81

## Key Compositions

Ordo virtutum (The order of the virtues)  
 This is a play set to music about good and evil. In the play, we meet the Virtues who want to help Anima, and the Devil who tries to trick Anima into doing bad things. In the end, the Virtues and Anima defeat the Devil, and everyone celebrates together.

- Other important compositions include:
- O ecclesia oculi tui (O church of your eyes)
  - O Eucharisti in Leta Via (O Eucharis in the Leta Way)
  - O vis eternitatis (O force of eternity)

## DID YOU KNOW?

As a child, she was often too weak to walk and sometimes could not see. As an adult, she could be in bed for days. Even with this, she managed to live until she was 81, very old for this period of history!

## The Importance of Hildegard

### The Church

Hildegard was given to the church at age 8 and was one of ten children born in her family. Hildegard took a vow (promise) to become a nun herself at 15.

### Visions from God

Hildegard said she had visions of God her whole life. The first came to her at the age of 3. At age 43, she said God told her to “write down what you see and hear” and, for the first time, she revealed her visions to the world.

## Key Events

### Public Speaking

The Pope allowed Hildegard to preach in public. It was extremely unusual for medieval nuns to leave or make public statements.

### Her Music

She wrote lyrical poetry which was not like the music of many other medieval composers at the time. The chants she wrote were written for female voices.