



chorus: the group of people whose dances and songs accompanied and commented on the events in ancient tragedies and comedies

orchestra: the circular area in which the chorus performed in Greek theatres

lyric poetry: written verse that expresses a poet's emotions and is suitable to accompaniment by a lyre

epic poetry: a long narrative poem written in a dignified style detailing the deeds and achievements of an historical or legendary hero

Muses (Mousa): the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne who preside over the arts and sciences and inspire those who excel in those pursuits. They are: Calliope; Clio; Erato; Euterpe; Melpomene; Poluhymnia; Terpsichore; Thalia; and Urania.

Graces (Charities): the three daughters of Zeus and Eurynome, a daughter of the Titan Oceanus, who brought grace and beauty everywhere they went. They are Aglaia, Euphrosyne, and Thalia.

Fates (Moirai): the three daughters of Zeus and Themis (Night), who decide the course of every person's life by spinning a thread symbolizing a person's life span. They are Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.

Apollo: the handsome young son of Zeus, who is the god of music, poetry, and medicine.

Dionysus: Zeus' youngest son is the god of wine, new life, and illusion. Many festivals and playwriting contests were held in his name.

Nike: the tiny goddess of victory, often seen with Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom.

Chiton: a tunic made with two singular rectangular cloths gathered at intervals from the neck to the elbow, giving a loose-sleeved elegant effect. It was made of fine wool, linen, flax, or silk. Women wore them long, while men and children wore them to the knee. A belt went across the mid-section.

Himation: a cloak worn draped over a shoulder and the opposite arm or hip.

Lyre: a seven-stringed, wooden-framed instrument that uses the European tortoise as a sounding board; Its strings are plucked with a plectrum (pick). A myth says that Dionysus invented it and gave it to Apollo, who loved plying it.