

St. Rita Choristers

We are affiliated with the Choristers Guild: www.choristersguild.org

The Value of Being a Choir Member: A Personal Story

Melva Villard

I was reared in a Southern Baptist church and realized that I wanted to play the piano to accompany my Sunday School class when I was about 10 years old, so it became a personal goal. I attended a public elementary school where music was taught sporadically, but I was fortunate that my parents were able to send me to private piano lessons. There was no elementary choir at my church; one had to be a teenager to be able to join the Sunday morning choir.

When I was in the seventh grade my family moved to a smaller town, where ironically there was a well-developed music program in place at the church there. I thrived in that environment, and for the first time in my life was able to be a choir member. I look back fondly on those times, and can still sing many parts of the songs we learned.

My own experiences naturally inspire me to want to offer that to our children today. The St. Rita Choristers

will begin rehearsals on September 16. Don't miss this opportunity!



Tristan Kramer (far left) was the first Chorister to register this Fall!

Hymn Study: Immaculate Mary

"Immaculate Mary" is also known as the "Our Lady of Lourdes Hymn." It's believed that a French Catholic clergyman, Abbe Gagnet wrote the words to this traditional French Pyrenean tune. Possibly the best internationally-known Marian hymn, it sometimes includes up to sixty different verses on Marian

Feast Days at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

See the sheet music and listen to a MIDI file of "Immaculate Mary" at traditionalromancatholicism.org/HymnTheLourdesHymn.html

We will be singing it at our Living Rosary on October 7, which also happens to be the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, but we won't use 60 verses!



St. Rita
Catholic Church
Alexandria, LA

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2009

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter! Be sure to look for it every month to help stay informed of our activities! We'll also include articles on hymn studies, music theory, and other fun things relating to music.

Happy Birthday

We will highlight Birthdays in this section, so be sure to let us know when your special day is ahead!

© September 10: Mr. Fryer

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Calendar of Events



- ♪ 9-16-09 Rehearsals begin @ 4:30
- ♪ 9-23-09 Rehearsal 4:30
- ♪ 9-30-09 Rehearsal 4:30



- ♪ 10-7-09 Rehearsal 4:30; Living Rosary @ 6:00
- ♪ 10-14-09 Rehearsal @ 4:30
- ♪ 10-21-09 Rehearsal @ 4:30
- ♪ 10-28-09 Rehearsal @ 4:30



- ♪ 11-4-09 Rehearsal @ 4:30
- ♪ 11-11-09 NO Rehearsal; Veteran's Day!
- ♪ 11-18-09 Rehearsal @ 4:30; Thanksgiving Mass @ 6:15 p.m.
- ♪ 11-22-09 Christ the King Mass @ 9:30 a.m.

Musical Craft Challenge: Make a Rainstick!

At least one of the songs in our repertoire this year will involve the playing of rainsticks. It's not required that you make your own, but you can find directions on making a simple rainstick at a number of sites such as:

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/music/rainstick/

www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/rain_stick/index.html

www.makingfriends.com/music/rainstick.htm

A rainstick belongs to the percussion family of instruments. A percussion instrument is anything that requires an action such as being shaken or struck for enough vibration to produce a sound. Originally rainsticks were used as ceremonial instruments to invoke the rain spirits, but in recent years they have been included more often in percussion ensembles.



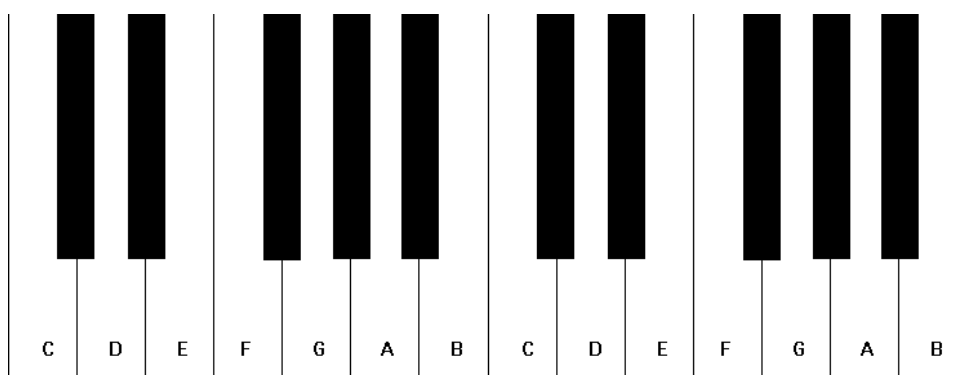
An example of a traditional rainstick made from a dried cactus tube.

Great Music Theory Websites

You will find FREE music theory instruction at this address:

www.musictheory.net/index.html. It's authored by software engineer Ricci Adams and includes introductory and intermediate music theory lessons as well as ear training!

Another great non-profit educational site is www.musictechteacher.com/worksheets.htm where you will find over 130 games, puzzles, and quizzes about music and music theory.



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