



St. Rita Choristers

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

November 7, 2009

Directed by John Fryer and Melva Villard

A Typical Chorister Rehearsal Includes...



We begin with a **choral warm-up**: ask your Chorister to sing "Yum, yum,

yum, yum, yah" or "Feet, feet, flat on the floor!" Those are just a couple of examples of the exercises we do to help get our vocal cords in shape.

Each month we focus on a different tune in our **hymn study**. Our first hymn was "Immaculate Mary" and the current one is "For the Beauty of the Earth." We sing the tune at each rehearsal, discuss its tune name, historical facts, and

musical form.

We are learning to sing Gregorian chant in **Latin**. Mr. Fryer is an expert in correct Latin pronunciation. Currently we are learning to sing the **Ave Maria** in traditional chant.

Our **music theory** lessons so far have included **ear training** (focusing on the intervals of 4ths and 6ths); **rhythmic reading** (learning note values), and **intervallic reading** (learning to identify 4ths and 6ths on the musical staff). The correct **musical**



terms are also emphasized each week.

The needed **repertoire** for upcoming events is also rehearsed. Naturally we are already rehearsing music for the CCD Thanksgiving Mass, Christ the King, and Christmas music. Our first few rehearsals were dedicated to expanding our repertoire of Marian songs for use throughout the year.

We pack a lot into a one-hour rehearsal and we're able to do that because your children are wonderful! We are so pleased with our 2009 Choristers!

St. Rita
Catholic Church
Alexandria, LA

Volume 1, Issue 3

CDs for at-home practicing will be given at our next rehearsal on November 18. Be sure to ask your Chorister about it, and pop it in your player!



☺ November 18:
CCD Thanksgiving
Mass, 6:15;
Choristers will
sing at this mass!

☺ November 22:
Christ the King,
9:30 Mass;
Choristers will
sing at this mass!

Hymn Study: Veni Emmanuel

You know this hymn as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and are accustomed to hearing it during the season of Advent. Music historians believe that the tune, or melody, is taken from a 15th century processional for French Franciscan nuns, but it may also have 8th century Gregorian chant origins.

The text to Veni Emmanuel is a combination of the "O Antiphons," which each restate a scriptural name

given to Christ. In reverse order, the first letter of each name spells ERO CRAS, which can be loosely translated as "I will be there tomorrow." The names in reverse order are: *O Emmanuel, O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), O Oriens (O Morning Star), O Clavis David (key of David), O Radix Jesse (root of Jesse), O Adonai (O Lord/O Lord God), O Sapientia (O Wisdom).*

And just what is an **antiphon**? It's a piece of music which is performed by two semi-independent choirs interacting with one another, often singing alternate musical phrases, is known as 'antiphonal'.

At most of our weekend masses during Advent you will hear the familiar refrain during the processional: "Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"



Calendar of Events



- ♪ 4th: Rehearsal @ 4:30
- ♪ 9th: NO Rehearsal; Veteran's Day!
- ♪ 18th: Rehearsal @ 4:30; Thanksgiving Mass @ 6:15 p.m.

- ♪ 22nd: Christ the King Mass @9:30 a.m.
- ♪ 25th: NO Rehearsal!



- ♪ REHEARSALS on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd!!!
- ♪ 5th: St. Nicholas Day Party at Holy Family Center, 11:00

- ♪ 12th: Senior Citizens Party at HFC, 11:00
- ♪ 16th: Penance Service
- ♪ 24th: Christmas Eve 5:30 mass

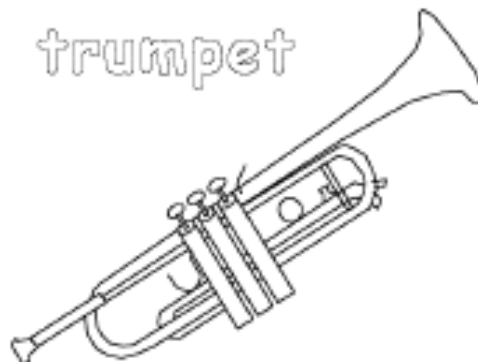


- ♪ Rehearsals on the 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Did You Know?

Although the Choristers do not specifically rehearse for the 9:30 Sunday morning mass each week, you are still welcome to join the music ministry for that mass. Be in the music room at 9:00, and we'll help you find a robe. You may also join us on Saturdays at the 4:00 mass if you arrive by 3:30!

trumpet

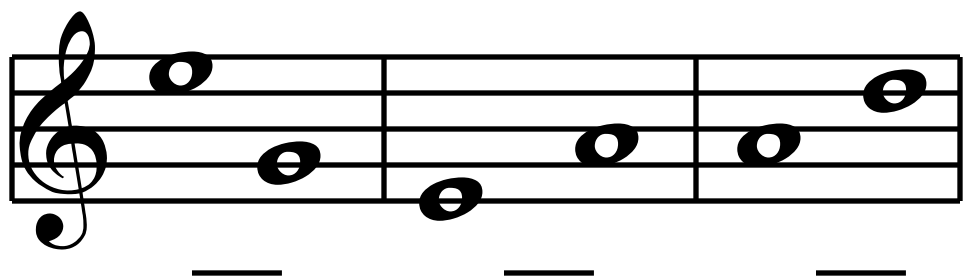


The trumpet is a member of the **brass family** of instruments. Be sure to listen for it on the morning of November 22nd. We are planning to have a trumpet player accompany us when we sing at the 9:30 mass that morning.

Great Music Theory Websites

One of the best sites I've found has to be the one sponsored by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra! This site is for those who want to learn more about music and the people who make music. It will keep you occupied for a while! Be sure to check it out!

<http://www.dsokids.com/>



Can you name these intervals?
(Hint: they are either 4ths or 6ths)