



Features

Contest Winners:

See if you won the Christmas Music contest
Page 2

The Story of "Silent Night"

By Catherine Imbert - Page 5

To submit your thoughts or ideas:

Contact: themusicnote@classykeys.net

Advertising contact:

Advertising information

Or to request becoming one of our links

Contact: advertising@classykeys.net

The Classy Keys Music Note is a FREE monthly publication available from The Classy Keys website: www.classykeys.net, and is a registered trademark of Classy Keys. Copyright Classy Keys 2008. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. All content, including, but not limited to information provided in The Classy Keys Music Note magazine is for education and information purposes only and should not be construed as specific instructions for individuals. Such content is intended to supplement, not substitute instruction.

Departments:

Questions and Answers:

You ask the music education questions.
Page 2

Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Rhythm Bells - Page 3

Elementary School:

About the Nutcracker Ballet

By Catherine Imbert - Page 3

Middle and High School:

A Bit about

The History of Christmas Music

By Catherine Imbert - Page 4

Discovery Page:

This month discover Christmas and
Hanukkah - Page 4

A Christmas Picture to Color

Page 6

A Song for you

Page 7

Musical Games and Ideas

Each month, check out the games on our website. There will be new features or words added to this game page.

www.classykeys.net



Questions and Answers

1. I hear parents says “belt it out“. Is that good or bad for a voice?

It is bad for a voice. If you push from your throat you cause stress on your vocal chords. A voice that pushes from the throat does not last very long, and will have medical problems. Please don't let anyone tell your child to sing louder and “belt it out“. A voice should develop through training and will get stronger that way.

If you have a question you would like answered by Catherine please email her at: MissCathy@classykeys.net

Congratulations

To our Contest Winners

Thank you for all those entries, and keep on sending in your work. You all did GREAT!!!

The elementary school age winner is **Pam**. She is 9 years old and lives in Maine.

The middle school aged winner is **George**. He is 13 years old and lives in Ohio.

Thank you everyone, and congratulations to Pam and George.

You can listen to their songs and one Catherine wrote. The news page has a headline for you to click to hear their songs.



Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Many stores have jingle bells for sale during the season. Let your child play the bells and sing songs such as “Jingle Bells”, “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”, and “Sleigh Ride”. This activity will help with rhythm and coordination. Keep your child safe. Make sure that your child can not swallow the jingle bells or put them around their neck.

This magazine is a monthly magazine that can be found on The Classy Keys website. If you have any suggestions, questions, or interesting musical stories to tell our readers, please contact us at:

themusicnote@classykeys.net

© Classy Keys 2008

Elementary School Students

The Nutcracker

By Catherine Imbert

Some of Tchaikovsky's most popular music is found in "The Nutcracker". I'm sure you have heard of 'The Waltz of the Flowers' and 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'. This ballet's music is of the Romantic Period in music.

Tchaikovsky discovered the celestra in Paris, and used this instrument as the main instrument in the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'. He wanted the Sugar Plum Fairy to have a "heavenly sweet sound". The celestra gave her that sound.

An interesting fact is that the original suite was only 85 minutes long.

The story of "The Nutcracker" revolves around a German girl named Clara. The Ballet opens with a brief overture. By using the upper registers of the orchestra the music sets the fairy mood. The curtain opens to reveal the house, where a Christmas Eve party is under way...

Suggestions:

Watch a performance of "The Nutcracker".
Learn to play one of the pieces in this suite.
Read about Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.
Learn about the Romantic Period in music.





Middle and High School Students

A Bit Of The History Of Christmas Music

By Catherine Imbert

Music has always been a part of the Christmas Season. Chants, litanies, and hymns were written in Latin and used during the church liturgy. In the 13th Century carols were written in the vernacular. These were influenced by Francis of Assisi.

The word carol comes from the Greek word 'choraulein', meaning a circle dance performed to flute music. In the Middle Ages, the English combined circle dances with singing and called them carols. The word carol soon came to mean a song in which a religious topic is treated in a style that is familiar or festive.

In England the Puritans looked at the singing of Christmas carols as pagan. They had it banned. After the Restoration began the tradition of singing Christmas carols in return for alms or charity. This was in the seventeenth century. Town musicians were licensed to collect money in the streets in the weeks preceding Christmas. Also started in the seventeenth century was the taking of a 'wassail bowl' round their neighbors to solicit gifts, accompanied by carols.

Christmas music has always been a combination of sacred and secular.

The most performed Christmas songs are:

1. The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) - Mel Torme, Robert Wells
2. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town - Fred Coots, Haven Gillespie
3. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas - Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
4. Winter Wonderland - Feliz Bernard, Richard B. Smith
5. White Christmas - Irving Berlin

Discovery

Find out the answers to these questions and then see how many of your family and friends know the answers.

1. What are the names of Santa's Reindeer?
Eight of the names are taken from Clement C. Moores, "A Visit From St. Nicholas". The Ninth is taken from the song, "Rudolf, The Red Nose Reindeer".
2. True or False. England only had 7 white Christmas' in the Twentieth Century.
3. True or False. Maoz Tzur is also known as "Rock of Ages".
4. What is Hanukkah (Chanukkah)?



Answers:

1. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolf.
2. True.
3. True. Maoz Tzur is sung after the lighting of the candles. It is also known as "Rock of Ages" and was written hundreds of years ago in Europe.
4. It is an 8 day festival commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus Epiphanes and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.



The Story of "Silent Night"

By Catherine Imbert

On Christmas Eve in the year 1818 the song "Silent Night" was performed for the first time. The words were written by Jospheh Mohr. He asked Franz Xavier Gruber to write music to go with the words. This song was first performed at St. Nikolas Church in Oberndorf, with Franz at the organ and Father Jospheh on the guitar.

Each year, this beautiful Christmas song is performed in this tiny church. Thousands of people stand inside and outside St. Nikolas Church to be a part of this wonderful Christmas story.



What's your favorite Holiday Song?

Alecia from Philadelphia's favorite Holiday song is "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas".

William from Philadelphia, PA, said his favorite is "Jingle Bell Rock".

Tom from Daytona Beach, FL, says "Silent Night" is his favorite song because it is quiet, and soft.

Rami from Daytona Beach, FL, likes "Jingle Bells".

Ben from Edgewater, FL, said his favorite Holiday song is "Carol Of The Bells".

Thank you for telling us your favorite Holiday song. Everyone please let us know your favorite love song, so we can put it in our February issue.

Happy Holidays





Christmas

By Catherine Imbert
12-03-08

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody of eighth notes with slurs: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The bass clef staff contains a simple bass line: C3 (half), C3 (half).

The second system continues the melody. The treble clef staff has: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter). The bass clef staff has: C3 (half), C3 (half).

The third system continues the melody. The treble clef staff has: D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter). The bass clef staff has: C3 (half), C3 (half).

The final system consists of a single measure. The treble clef staff has a whole note chord: G3, A3, B3, C4. The bass clef staff has a whole note: C3.

This song can be played by bells, or a keyboard set up to sound like bells. Make it a very regal sound. This is announcing the birth of Jesus.