

RESOURCES FOR LEARNING GREGORIAN CHANT AND SINGING THE MASS

Compiled by Maria Rist

There are plenty of good, free, self-study resources for learning how to chant the Mass. The Church Music Association of America has posted PDF's of historic and current books, articles, and presentations. Below are a few that I find useful. You might look through them and see which ones would be most helpful for you. They are listed in the order I would want to go through them as a beginner.

- *Idiot's Guide to Square Notes* – An easy introduction to singing Gregorian chant.
<http://ceciliaschola.org/pdf/squarenotes.pdf>
- *Guide to Singing Chant* and *Guide to Liturgical Latin* – found on pages 326 – 336 of this PDF of the Parish Book of Chant. This covers most everything we need to understand as singers, including the various neumes, modes, basics about the rhythm, and pronunciation.
http://media.musicasacra.com/books/pbc_2nd.pdf
- Two-page concise guide to the basic neumes and symbols. Short and sweet but has additional information about the rhythm that is not in the Parish Book of Chant.
<http://media.musicasacra.com/pdf/neumes.pdf>
- Chant Presentation – 57 PowerPoint slides. The first half covers basics, and the second half gives examples of the various modes. *Hint:* You can get by without memorizing the modes.
http://media.musicasacra.com/media/chant_pitch.ppt

Note: This requires MS PowerPoint. Also, the online link may give an error. If you need a good copy of the presentation, I'll email it to you or I can make you a hardcopy.

- *Guide to Singing the High Mass* – This is a useful cheat sheet to follow as we sing the Extraordinary Form Mass.
<http://media.musicasacra.com/pdf/highmass.pdf>
- Introduction from the *Liber Usualis* – Authoritative and comprehensive rules from the Vatican for singing chant: notation, rhythm, liturgical Latin, and rubrics for chanting the Mass. The “easier” guides above derive from this official guide from the Vatican. An important document, but somewhat esoteric and unwieldy. Save it for a rainy day.
<http://media.musicasacra.com/pdf/liber-intro.pdf>
- Church Music Association of America website – here is a link to their Resources page, containing most of the above links and many more.
<http://musicasacra.com/resource-lists/>

