



The ROSE
ENSEMBLE

Reawakening the Ancient

Educator Study Guide

Music from the Land of Three Faiths

Discovering Ancient Harmonies across Cultures, Borders and Religions

Dear Educator:

Thank you for participating in the cultural programming offered by The Rose Ensemble. We have created this study guide to help you and your students prepare for the upcoming Rose Ensemble performance in your classroom and we hope to make your experience as informative and enjoyable as possible. This study guide provides information to help you integrate this experience into your classroom lessons, including general contextual material, a list of basic terms and a reference list of additional sources.

Program Description

Rich in research and exotic harmonies, this program helps participants discover the music of medieval Spain, where Christians, Jews and Muslims lived together in an artistically and culturally intertwined society. Featuring a diverse collection of Spanish *villancicos*, Galician *cantigas*, Sephardic laments and Arab-Andalusian songs, this presentation utilizes Middle Eastern instruments such as the *riqq*, *dumbek* and *rebec*.

Educational Benefits

Using the music of people living in medieval Spain, participants will be able to identify various languages, countries, and religions, as well as describe significant aspects of medieval people's lives. Through music and language, students explore the cultural, social, and political issues that affected medieval people, and discover the fascinating similarity to our own modern lives.

About the artists

The Rose Ensemble is an inventive vocal ensemble working to reach young listeners with the sounds of medieval music and the dramatic telling of ancient stories that speak to today's world. Singing *a cappella* and playing a variety of early string and percussion instruments, The Rose Ensemble helps people of all ages to honor our diverse world through an exploration of history, legend, cultures and faiths. The Rose Ensemble makes use of its unique place in the Twin Cities arts scene—early vocal and instrumental music—to bring a new and personal perspective to the social and cultural issues still relevant for today's youth. Our workshops for young people encourage interaction and dialogue so that students may ask questions, offer their thoughts, and participate musically. In addition to allowing students to see, hear and touch unfamiliar instruments, the activities explore periods of tremendous societal change, promoting the arts as a vehicle to address social issues.

Glossary of terms

Medieval- the period in Western history from roughly 500-1400 C.E.; also called the “Middle Ages”

Cantiga- old Spanish for “song”; famous versions were *Cantigas de Santa Maria* (“Songs of Holy Mary”), written by King Alfonso X

Gregorian- referring to St. Gregory (c. 540-604), who is credited with standardizing liturgical chant during his reign as pope; hence, the term Gregorian Chant

Sephardic- referring to Jews who lived in Spain and Portugal (distinguished from the Ashkenazy, who lived elsewhere in Europe)

Latin- the language of the Catholic Church for centuries; mother of all Romance Languages

Gallego-Portuguese- the language of the western Iberian Peninsula (modern Portugal and western Spain) in the Medieval period; a precursor to modern Portuguese and Spanish

Ladino- the language of the Sephardic Jews; also called Judeo-Spanish

A cappella- literally “from the chapel”, this is music performed without instruments

Vielle- or “fiddle,” a Medieval French stringed instrument similar to a modern viola

Dumbek- a small, goblet-shaped hand drum common to the Middle East

Cow bone- used as a percussion instrument in pairs

Hurdy-gurdy- an ancient stringed instrument consisting of a set of strings vibrated by a rotating wheel

Riqq- a Middle Eastern percussion instrument similar to a tambourine

Rebec- a small, pear-shaped string instrument dating from the Middle Ages

Suggested activities

Discuss the differences and similarities among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Explore instances of Latin usage in contemporary language and society (English usage, one dollar bill, etc.)

Create instruments from everyday objects

www.thefamilycorner.com/family/kids/crafts/9_musical_instruments.shtml

Books

Daily Life Depicted in the Cantigas de Santa Maria.

Keller, John E.

Convivencia: Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Medieval Spain

Glick, Thomas F.

A Vanished World: Medieval Spain's Golden Age of Enlightenment

Lowney, Chris

Recordings

Savall, Jordi: *Alfonso X El Sabio: Cantigas De Santa Maria*. Astrée 8508.

Dufay Collective: *Music for Alfonso the Wise*. harmonia mundi B0006Z2LLU.

Ensemble Unicorn: *Alfonso X El Sabio: Cantigas de Santa Maria*. Naxos Records 8.553133.

Websites

Network of Information on Early Music

www.earlymusic.net

Medieval Institute at the U. of Western Michigan

www.wmich.edu/medieval

Collection of Latin Works

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com>

Chant Research

http://www.music.princeton.edu/chant_html/

Works detailing the history of the Iberian Peninsula

<http://libro.uca.edu/>

History of Spain

www.DocuWeb.ca/SiSpain/english/history/index.html