Lesson Plan: Chant and Illuminated Letters

While this is geared for Pueri students in grades 4-8, it can be adapted to any grade level K-8th.

Students will learn what a communion chant is and will sing the chant for the Pueri Cantores festival. Students will also learn the history and significance of illuminated manuscripts and will make their own illuminated manuscript based off of the scripture of the communion chant.

Standards:

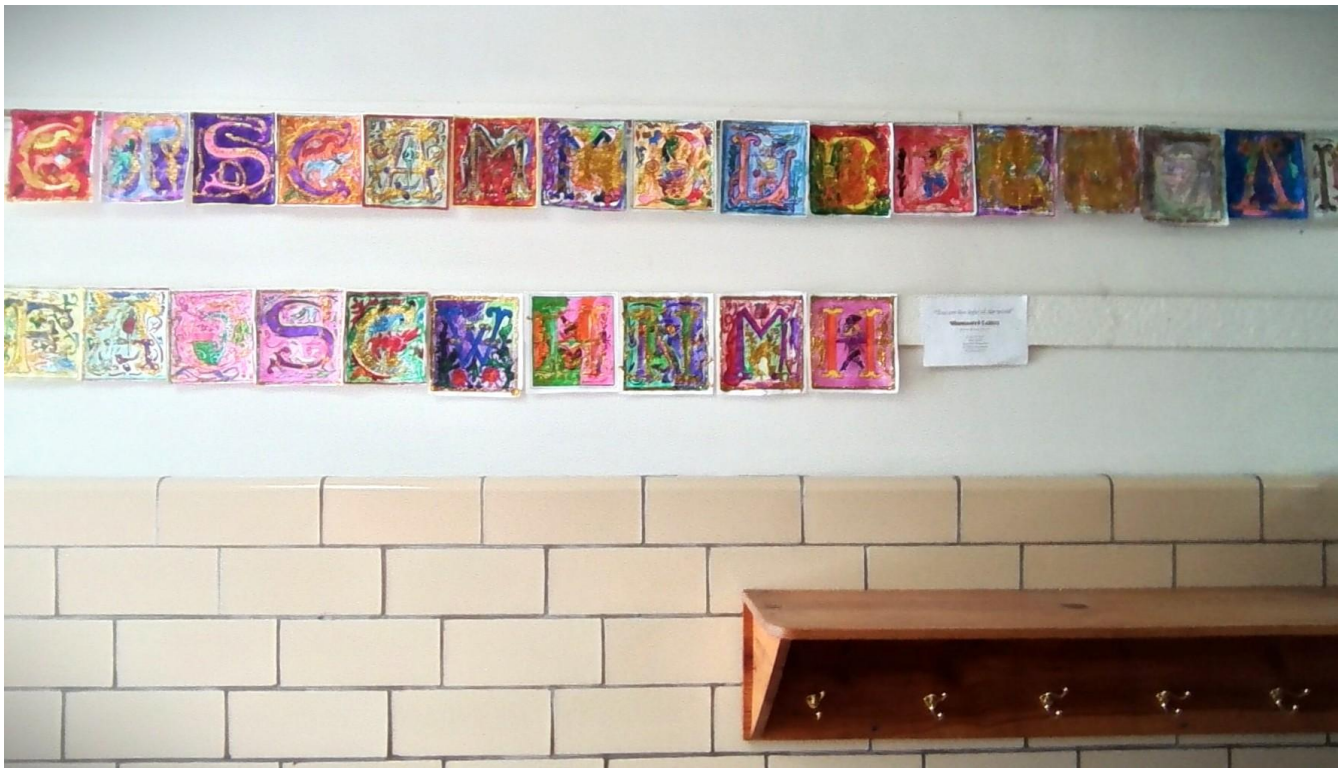
CONNECTING: Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between music and the other arts or subject areas, including musical and extra-musical considerations.
CONNECTING: Exhibit understanding of the two-way relationship between music and people of various cultures, ethnicities, locales, and eras through an exploration of musical and extra-musical components.

Explain to students: An illuminated manuscript is a hand-written book from long ago decorated with bright colors and real gold or silver leaf. Scribes made them by hand very slowly in a room called a scriptorium. They called them "illuminated" because the shiny gold leaf made the pages look like they were lit up. Pages were made from animal skin called parchment. Colors came from nature - plants, seeds, insects, etc. (Show students examples of illuminated manuscripts and written chant - there are many photos and videos available online). Famous example: The Book of Kells

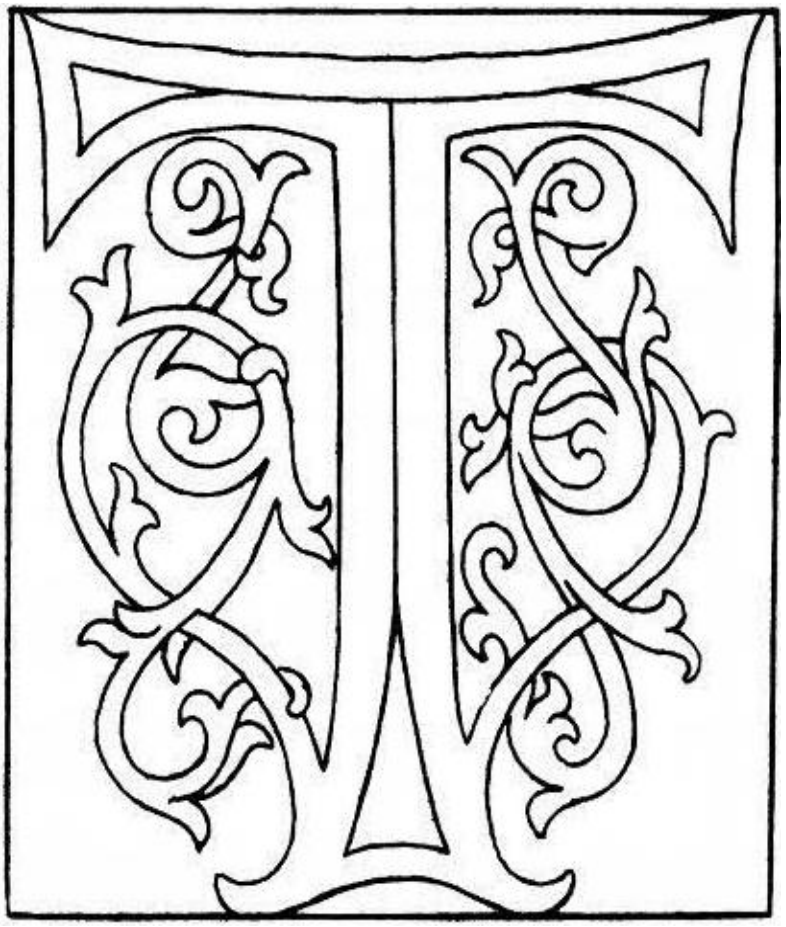
Literacy resources: Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson, Do Re Mi: If You Can Read Music, Thank Guido d'Arezzo by Susan L. Roth

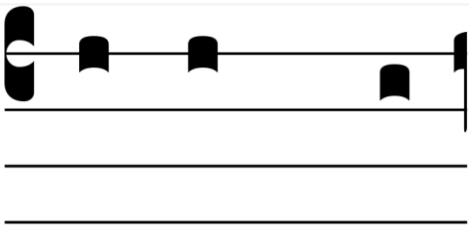
After showing students examples of Medieval manuscripts and music notation, explain that the communion chant is the music that is sung during communion at Mass. Nowadays, hymns are often sung. Show them the attached page with the communion chant and ornate first letter. **Sing** through the chant with students, and invite them to **color** the page. Use glitter or metallic markers to “illuminate” the “manuscript”!

Extension: many medieval letters coloring pages are available online for younger students to color. Alternatively/for older students, invite them to create their own border, letter, and animal illustrations to make their own “Illuminated” and decorated letter. See examples below.

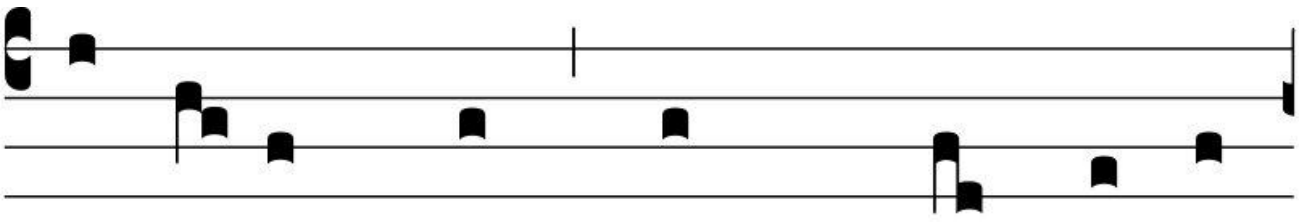




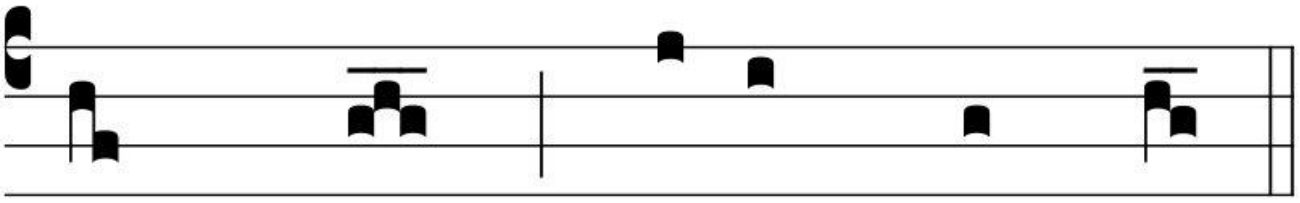




his is my



be- loved Son with whom I am



well pleased; listen to him.