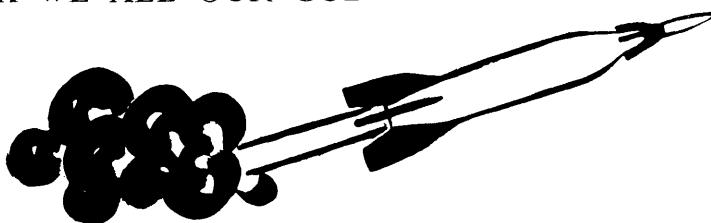


## NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

WWWWhhhhheeeeeeeeeee. . . . .



What a strange feeling that air pocket gave our TIME CAPSULE carrying us back to the 1600's in Germany! Look how messy and torn up everything is, as if Germany has been at war for a long time. The people seem hungry and sick, too . . . but listen! I hear them singing a hymn written by their pastor, Martin Rinkart:

“Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In Whom His world rejoices:  
Who, from our Mothers’ arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.”

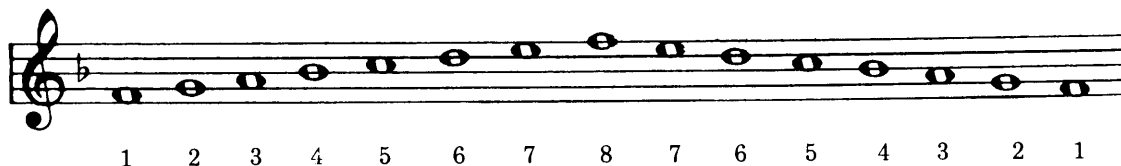
These German people knew that no matter how difficult life became, God’s purposes of love would always work out to help those who try to love Him and serve Him . . . just as we try to do by our choir service! How many of God’s countless gifts of love” can you name?

It may be fun to sing the notes by the direction in which they move. This was one of the very first ways of writing music . . . by using signs above the words to show whether the tune went UP, DOWN, or STRAIGHT. These signs were called Neumes. The tune for this hymn has a German name – “Nun Danket.”



Start    Straight    Straight    Up    Straight    Down; Same    Down    Down    Down    Up    Down    Down

Next, let’s sing the TUNE by scale steps. A monk named Guido who lived in Arezzo helped figure out this way of writing down music, but his scale only had 6 tone names: UT, RE, MI, FA, SO, LA. Later on, we added a seventh tone, TI, and changed the name for UT to DO. But why don’t we use scale step numbers? If we sing in the key of F major, our scale steps will be:



On which scale step does the melody “Nun Danket” begin? Write a number 5 beneath the first note. Now try singing and writing the other scale steps:



We’d all like to stay in Germany long enough to meet Handel, Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Durer and the other great German musicians and artists! But let’s load the rocket with souvenirs of our trip: German glass and china figurines, unusual handmade wooden toys, a cuckoo clock for Mother, and a copy of the Grimm Brothers’ fairy tales.