

Singing Training According to Notation at the Immanuel Kotaraja Evangelical Camp Congregation

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Abstract

Training on singing according to notation at the Immanuel Kotaraja Evangelical Camp Congregation was carried out to overcome the congregation's limitations in reading musical notation, which often hinders the harmony and beauty of music in worship. This training aims to improve the ability of congregations, worship leaders and musicians to understand and apply musical notation correctly. The methods used include demonstrations and questions and answers, which help the congregation be more active in absorbing the theory and practice of ecclesiastical music. As a result, this training has had a significant positive impact on the quality of music services. The congregation is not only more synchronized in singing praise songs, but also better able to appreciate the spiritual meaning of each song sung. In addition, the ability to read notation opens up opportunities for the congregation to explore more creative and varied arrangements, enriching the worship atmosphere musically and spiritually. In conclusion, this training contributed to improving the quality of church music, strengthening congregational togetherness, and deepening their spiritual experience in worship. This initiative also supports higher education institutions' efforts to implement Tri Dharma, especially in the field of community service.

Keywords: Singing Training, Notation, Immanuel Kotaraja Evangelical Camp Congregation

INTRODUCTION

Music and singing play a central role in building a solemn and deep atmosphere in worship (Calitz, 2017; Kibor, 2006; Nekola, 2019; Walter & Altorfer, 2022). However, to achieve good quality music, the congregation needs to have a basic understanding of musical notation. By mastering good notation, the congregation can sing more harmoniously and uniformly, thus creating a more meaningful worship experience (Chitalkina et al., 2021; Kiring, 2023; Temperley, 2023).

In the context of churches in Jayapura, such as the Immanuel Evangelical Tabernacle Congregation, the skill of reading musical notation is still a challenge for most congregations. The majority of congregations generally sing by ear without understanding the basics of musical notation (Temperley, 2023). This causes variations in the way songs are delivered and can reduce the beauty and harmony of music in worship. Therefore, singing training according to notation aims to strengthen the congregation's skills in understanding and reading notation so that the quality of singing in worship increases (Fanggidae et al., 2024; Prasinarta, 2024; Yudistira, 2023).

This training also plays an important role in increasing the capacity of church music ministers. Music ministers, such as worship leaders and musicians, often face obstacles in leading congregations if they themselves do not have sufficient skills in reading musical notation (Andreas, 2011; Pahan, 2021; Sihombing et al., 2024). Through this training, it is hoped that

worship leaders will be more confident and skilled in guiding the congregation to sing praise songs better and more structured.

Furthermore, this training is a concrete form of the commitment of lecturers and education staff in carrying out the tri dharma of higher education, especially in community service. This service activity not only provides direct benefits to the congregation in terms of improving musical skills, but also strengthens relations between the university and the local community. As a higher education institution, STAKPN Sentani, where lecturers and education staff reside, is committed to sharing relevant knowledge and skills with the community, including in the field of ecclesiastical music.

Apart from that, singing training according to notation is also in line with the congregation's efforts to improve the overall quality of worship. In recent years, many churches have begun to realize the importance of quality music in attracting active congregational participation. With the congregation's ability to read musical notation, it will be easier for them to follow new hymns introduced in worship, thereby enriching the church's song repertoire. On the other hand, this activity also supports the development of the potential of the young generation in the church environment. Many young people are involved in music ministry, but often limited understanding of music becomes an obstacle in developing their talents. This training provides the opportunity for

the younger generation to become more familiar with music theory and practice it, so that they can contribute more to church services.

Not only focusing on technical aspects, this training also places emphasis on the theological aspects of church music. Music in worship is not just decoration or complement, but is a form of expression of faith and praise to God (Pahan, 2021; Patasik, 2022; Verry Willyam, 2023). With this understanding, it is hoped that the congregation will not only be able to sing technically well, but also deepen the spiritual meaning of each song they sing. Training in singing according to notation also has the potential to increase the sense of togetherness in the congregation (Delius & Müller, 2023; Kiring, 2023). When the entire congregation is able to sing in unison following the correct notation, an atmosphere of closer togetherness will be created. Harmonious and unified singing reflects the unity of the congregation's heart in praising and worshipping God (Ballou, 2009; Wald-Fuhrmann et al., 2020).

This activity is not just technical training, but is part of an effort to glorify God through better and more focused music. With a better understanding of musical notation, the Immanuel Kotaraja Evangelical Camp congregation is expected to be able to provide more beautiful and touching praise offerings, as a form of their gratitude and worship to God. Through this community service activity, it is hoped that there will be significant changes in the quality of church music which will ultimately support the creation of worship that is more lively, harmonious and full of meaning for the entire congregation.

METHOD

The STAKPN Sentani team of lecturers and educational staff held community service activities for the Kemah Evangelical Imanuel Kotaraja Congregation, with a focus on singing training according to notation. This activity uses demonstration and question and answer methods as the main approach to facilitate the congregation's understanding of the importance of singing according to notation.

In the demonstration method, the instructor provides direct examples of how to read and interpret musical notation, including basic signs such as pitch, rhythm, and dynamics. The congregation is invited to see and listen to how a notation is applied in church songs, then try to imitate it with guidance from the instructor. In this way, participants can directly observe correct

technique and improve their singing skills gradually.

The question-and-answer method is used to give participants the opportunity to clarify their understanding and dig deeper into aspects that are not yet understood (Huda et al., 2023; Limbong Datu et al., 2023). In this session, the instructor opens the discussion by asking questions related to the difficulties experienced by the participants, then provides a more detailed explanation or example. This interactive approach makes the training more dynamic, because participants are actively involved in the learning process, so they are able to overcome the challenges they face in reading notation and applying it when singing.

PkM activities will take place on Friday 14 April 2023 at 09.00-12.00 WIT located at the Kemah Evangelical Imanuel Kotaraja Church, Jayapura. The participants consisted of 25 members of the Immanuel Kotaraja Evangelical Camp Congregation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Importance of Mastering Musical Notation in Ecclesiastical Worship

Mastery of musical notation in ecclesiastical worship has a very significant role, especially in creating a more solemn, harmonious and focused worship atmosphere (Miller & Strongman, 2002; Taylor, 2023; Walter & Altorfer, 2022). In the context of the Kemah Evangelical Immanuel Kotaraja congregation, Jayapura, the congregation's ability to understand and read musical notation is an important aspect that needs to be improved. Lecturers and educational staff through community service activities take an active role in providing training regarding the importance of mastering musical notation, with the aim of improving the quality of worship through more structured and harmonious music (Calitz, 2017; Taylor, 2023). Music is a very effective medium in conveying spiritual messages, and by understanding musical notation, congregations can be better involved in singing praises to God (Calitz, 2017; Lee & Davidson, 2017; Smith, 2015).

One of the main reasons why mastering musical notation is so important is to help the congregation sing hymns more precisely and accurately. In many cases, congregations often only rely on memory or imitate without understanding the basic notation of the songs being sung. This can cause imperfections in singing the song, such as a pitch mismatch or a rhythm that is different from the direction of the worship leader. By understanding musical notation, the

congregation will be more focused in following the tempo, tone and dynamics in accordance with the actual musical composition (Kiring, 2023; Walter & Altorfer, 2022).

Apart from that, the ability to read musical notation also increases harmony in worship (Arthurs & Petrini, 2024; van der Merwe, 2020). When the congregation is able to follow the notation correctly, the resulting singing will sound more harmonious and harmonious. This harmony creates a more solemn and profound atmosphere of worship, where everyone can feel the beauty of the music which is in harmony with the spiritual meaning contained in the praise songs (Walter & Altorfer, 2022). Harmonious music also strengthens togetherness in worship, reflecting the congregation's unity in praising God (Tanduk et al., 2024; Verry Willyam, 2023).

Mastery of musical notation is not only beneficial for the congregation as a whole, but also for worship leaders and church music ministers (Walter & Altorfer, 2022). A worship leader who has the skills to read notation will find it easier to guide the congregation to sing praise songs better (Andreas, 2011; Rosiana, 2023). They can provide clear direction regarding the dynamics and rhythm of the song, and ensure that the congregation follows the song correctly. Music ministers who have this ability can also organize a more structured musical arrangement, thus supporting a more solemn and focused worship atmosphere (Eko Agus Setiawan, 2023; Walter & Altorfer, 2022).

In addition, musical notation helps the congregation to follow new songs introduced in the liturgy. Churches often introduce new songs to enrich their worship repertoire. Without the ability to read notation, congregants may have difficulty following the new song, thereby reducing their active participation in worship (Baker, 2023; Simanjuntak & Sejati, 2021). By understanding notation, congregants can more quickly adapt to new songs, expand their knowledge of spiritual music, and enrich their worship experience.

In the context of training in mastering musical notation at the Kemah Evangelical Imanuel Kotaraja congregation, lecturers and educational staff try to provide an approach that is practical and easy for the congregation to understand. The speaker utilizes demonstration and question and answer methods to ensure that the congregation understands the basic concepts in musical notation and can immediately practice them in the context of church singing. With this approach, training is not only theoretical, but also

applicable, so that the congregation can immediately feel the benefits of mastering notation in worship.



Figure 1. Speaker Explains the Importance of Mastering Musical Notation in Church Worship

Mastery of musical notation is also important to maintain uniformity in worship. When all the congregation understands musical notation, it will be easier for them to sing hymns in unison and in sync. This is important to maintain unity in worship, where the congregation not only sings individually, but also as a community praises God together. This uniformity creates a more focused and structured atmosphere, where music becomes a unifying tool in glorifying God.

The use of musical notation in worship also contributes to improving the overall quality of church music. With the ability to read notation, congregations, especially musicians and choir singers, can be more creative in developing richer and more complex musical arrangements. They can experiment with more sophisticated harmonies, dynamics, and rhythmic variations, so that church music is not monotonous but grows more varied and inspiring.

Furthermore, mastery of musical notation has a deep spiritual impact. By understanding and practicing musical notation, congregations not only sing technically correctly, but also better appreciate the meaning of each hymn they sing (Kuuskankare & Laurson, 2006). Music is an effective means of expressing faith and praise to God, where every note and rhythm has deep spiritual meaning. Thus, mastering musical notation not only enriches worship musically, but also spiritually.

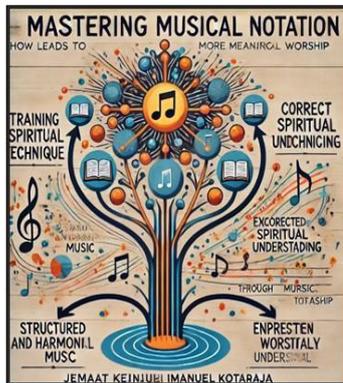


Diagram 1. The importance of mastering musical notation in church services at the Immanuel Gospel Tabernacle Congregation, Kotaraja

Training in mastering musical notation carried out by lecturers and education staff at the Kemah Evangelical Immanuel Kotaraja Congregation is a strategic step in improving the quality of worship through more focused, harmonious and structured music. With this ability, the congregation can participate more actively and meaningfully in worship, making music the main means to glorify God better.

Impact of Training on Church Music Ministry

The singing training according to notation carried out by lecturers and educational staff for the Kemah Evangelical Immanuel Kotaraja Congregation has had a significant impact on improving the quality of music services in worship. With this training, worship leaders, choir members, and congregations become better trained in singing songs correctly and in harmony. The ability to read musical notation makes it easier for the congregation to follow each musical instruction, thus creating better harmony in worship (Mencher, 1996; Reifinger, 2020). This improvement brings a more solemn and purposeful worship atmosphere, where music becomes an important instrument in strengthening the congregation's spiritual experience.

One of the immediate impacts of this training is improving the skills of worship leaders. Worship leaders who have the ability to read musical notation can direct the congregation more effectively, ensuring that all worship participants sing the songs in unison and in the correct key (Roberts, 2009). This training also provides worship leaders with a deeper understanding of the musical structure, rhythm, and dynamics of ecclesiastical songs, ultimately enabling them to better manage and guide congregations during worship.

Apart from that, the congregation also felt great benefits from this training. Congregation members, who previously relied solely on memory or listening, can now read musical notation more accurately. This increases the uniformity of sound and harmony in their performance. A more skilled congregation can present praise songs more beautifully and meaningfully, thus bringing the congregation into a deeper atmosphere of worship. The improved quality of choirs also created a greater appreciation for ecclesiastical music.

Another positive impact is on the congregation as a whole. With the ability to read musical notation, the congregation can be more active and participatory in singing praise songs during worship. They are no longer completely dependent on the worship leader or choir, but can follow the flow of the music more independently. This not only increases congregational participation, but also strengthens the sense of togetherness in worship, where the entire congregation unites in musical harmony dedicated to God.

This training also has a deep spiritual impact. When the congregation can sing praise songs more harmoniously and in unison, the atmosphere of worship becomes more solemn and full of meaning. Well-sung music can touch the hearts and deepen the congregation's spiritual experience, allowing them to better feel God's presence through hymns. In this way, music is not only an entertainment element in worship, but also a more meaningful and effective means of worship.

Apart from improving the quality of music, this training also strengthens relationships between music ministers and the congregation. With joint training, worship leaders, choirs, and congregations work together to achieve the same goal, namely praising God through beautiful and harmonious music. This togetherness strengthens the sense of community and brotherhood in the church, which in turn is also reflected in the spirit of togetherness during worship.

The long-term impact of this training will be an increase in the standard of music ministry in the church. With a better understanding of musical notation, music ministers can organize more diverse and creative musical programs in worship. They can arrange richer musical compositions, both in terms of harmony, rhythm and song variations, so that the music in worship is not monotonous but more dynamic and inspiring. This in turn attracts more congregants to actively participate in worship.



Figure 2. Lecturer trains participants to sing according to notation

Training also helps congregations to better appreciate the art of ecclesiastical music. By understanding musical notation, congregants become more aware of the complexity and beauty of the music they sing. This appreciation fosters a sense of gratitude and pride in the music ministry, as well as encouraging the congregation to be more serious in contributing to the musical aspects of worship. This awareness also strengthens the congregation's commitment to be involved in music ministry and glorify God through their talents.

Apart from the internal impact, this training can also improve the church's image in the eyes of other congregations. Churches that have high quality music services will be known as churches that are serious about glorifying God through music. This can attract more people to come and join in worship, as well as strengthen the church's witness in the community. Beautiful and purposeful music is a special attraction that can invite more people to experience God's love and power through worship.

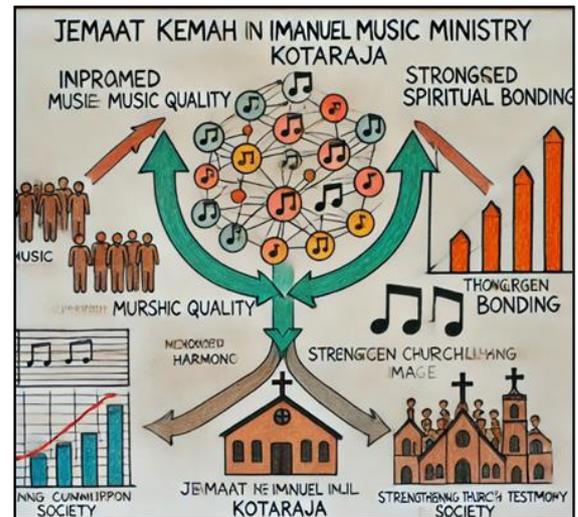


Diagram 2. The impact of music training on church music services at the Immanuel Gospel Tabernacle Congregation, Kotaraja.

Singing training according to notation carried out by lecturers and education staff has had a broad and deep impact on the music ministry at the Kemah Evangelical Immanuel Kotaraja congregation. By improving the quality of music, the atmosphere of worship becomes more harmonious, solemn and full of meaning. This training also strengthens congregational togetherness in praising God and increases appreciation for the art of ecclesiastical music. Ultimately, better music ministry will enrich the congregation's spiritual experience and take church worship to a higher level.

CONCLUSION

The Singing Training According to Notation carried out by lecturers and education staff at the Kemah Evangelical Immanuel Kotaraja Congregation has had a significant positive impact on church music services. Through mastering musical notation, the congregation not only sings praise songs more uniformly and harmoniously, but also increasingly appreciates every spiritual meaning contained in the music. With this training, the quality of worship becomes more focused, creates a solemn atmosphere and strengthens congregation togetherness in glorifying God through music.

In addition, the ability to read musical notation opens up opportunities for greater creativity in church music arrangements, thereby creating a more varied and dynamic worship experience. This more structured and high-quality music service also improves the church's image in the eyes of other congregants, inviting more people

to join and experience a deeper spiritual experience. In the end, this training not only has an impact on technical aspects, but also enriches the spiritual and community dimensions of worship.

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