



## Merry Melody Music Academy In-Home Music Lessons

Piano | Voice | Guitar | Bass | Drums  
Rock Band Class

[www.merrymelodymusicacademy.com](http://www.merrymelodymusicacademy.com)

781.929.5192



For the past two seasons, Jack Barthel, Bass, and retired professor of German and Linguistics, has offered counseling for psychic distress through the reading of German poetry. In those two years only one person stepped forward to strive for self-improvement by this means. That person does not seem to have suffered from the experience, and in fact claims to have enjoyed it, but of course not enjoyment, but self-improvement was the goal, and it's unclear whether this was achieved.

This season Jack is offering something much more tangible: practice in following the German libretto of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* so as to make it feasible to keep up with the English translations nearby while listening to the music. In order to do this, of course, a person must be able to associate the German words that are sung with the printed German, and simultaneously, out of the corner of an eye, note the nearby English words. There's no time to struggle with uncertainty about the German words! Adding to the difficulty is the tendency of German word order to be different from English word order.

It is Jack's expectation that this training with *Das Rheingold* will produce a skill that will automatically extend to the other Wagnerian operas, as well other operas in German.

This training can be enjoyed for a donation to the Neponset Choral Society of \$30 per hour. (Jack has chosen *Das Rheingold* for this training because he happens to have it on CD, complete with libretto.)