

# Lyra the Lyr (harp)

## Mythology:

Stringed instrument like a harp, invented by Hermes as a gift to his half brother Apollo who gave it to his son, Orpheus the musician.

## Astronomically Speaking:

The constellation Lyra is located between Hercules and Cygnus and it's brightest star, Vega is one of the first stars visible in the evening.

## **6 stars:**

- Alpha (Vega)
- Beta
- Gamma
- Delta (double star)
- Epsilon (double, double)
- Zeta

## Vega:

Magnitude "0"

Part of the "summer triangle" with Deneb and Altair

In some 10,000 years from now it will be the "North Star" due to the movement of the Earth's axis

## Delta:

Double star made up of orange and blue white stars

## Epsilon:

Famous "double, double" views as double in Binocs or under low telescope power but with a little magnification shows up as each star of the double having a companion as well, try to find them.

**Deep Sky:** Lyra is also home to a Planetary Nebula called the "Ring Nebula" known also as M57. With a magnitude of 9.5 it is easily viewed under low to Medium power through a telescope but also holds up to viewing with some higher power. A close neighbor to Lyra is M56 a Globular Cluster at a magnitude of 9.5. It is located directly off of the star Gamma Lyr but before you run into the end star of Cygnus otherwise known as the "Northern Cross".

## References

<http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~dolan/constellations/constellations/Lyra.html>

<http://www.comfychair.org/~cmbell/myth/myth.html>

[Terry Adrians' Messier Chart/log system](#)

