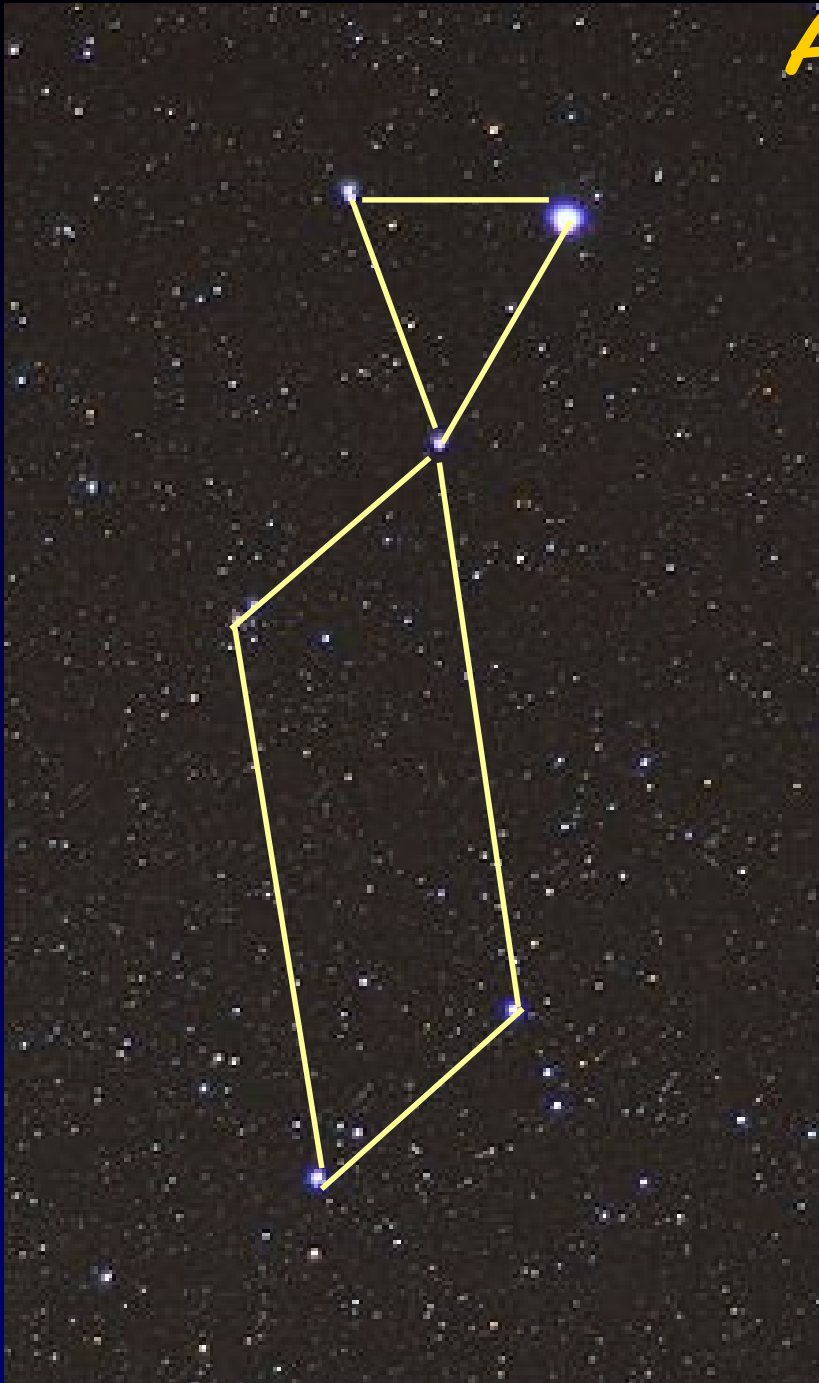


# August's Suggested Constellation



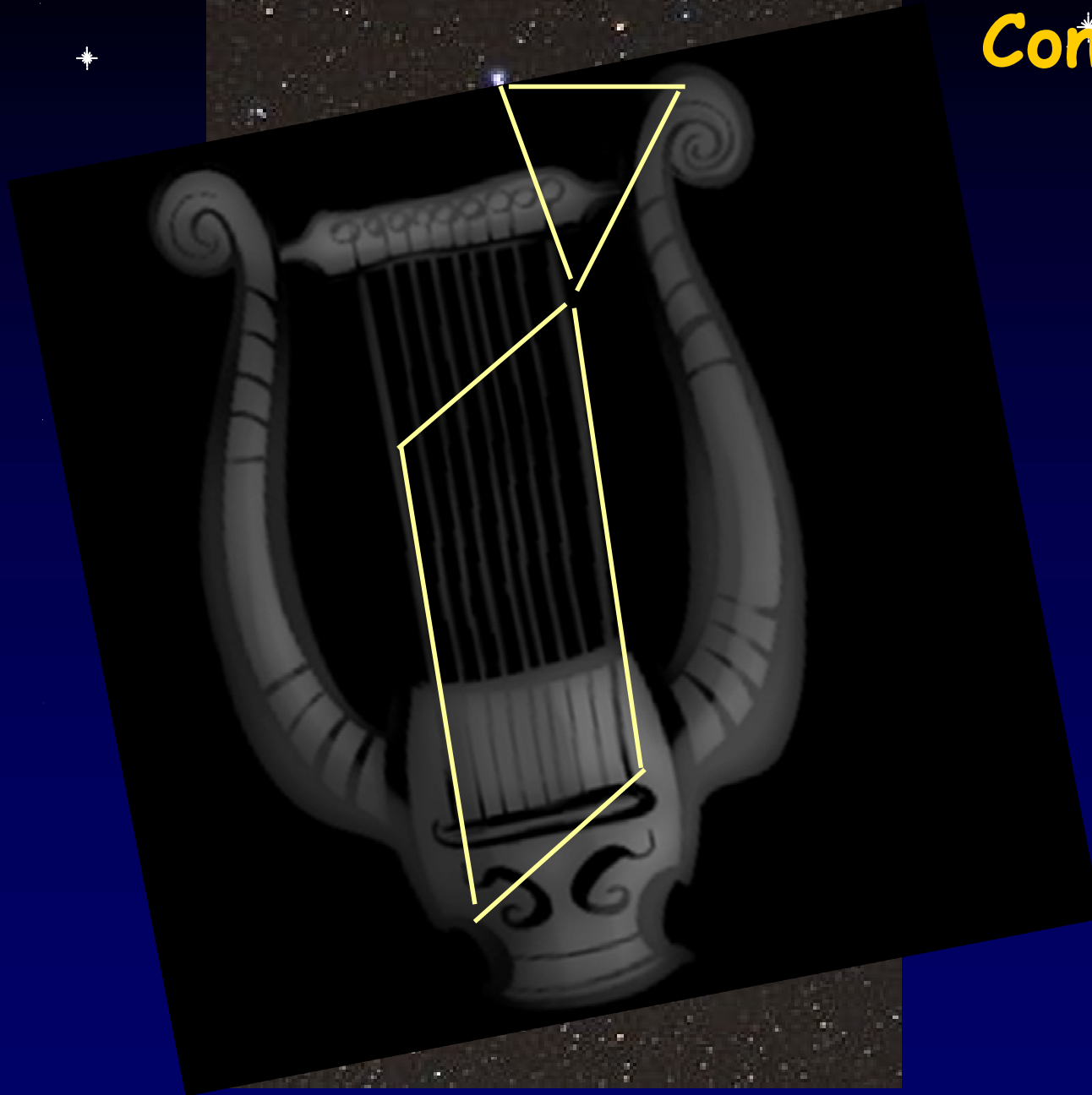
*Any idea  
what it is?*

# August's Suggested Constellation



That's right -  
Lyra

# August's Suggested Constellation



That's right -  
Lyra

## Lyra in Mythology

- Lyra was the first ever lyre, made by Hermes from a tortoise shell and was given to Orpheus
- Orpheus joined Jason and his argonauts and used his lyre to subdue the voices of the Sirens
- He later married Eurydice, a nymph but she was killed by a bite from a snake. Orpheus entered the Underworld to reclaim her and used his lyre to charm Hades, the King. Hades agreed to release Eurydice as long as Orpheus never looked back to check. He failed and Eurydice was consigned to the Underworld forever.
- Orpheus roamed the world, playing his lyre and rejecting all advances from other women.
- On his death the lyre was placed in the sky by the Muses.

# Lyra - The Constellation

- Vega is a brilliant white star, easily found in the summer months and is one of the corners of the Summer Triangle
  - it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> brightest star in the northern hemisphere, after Sirius and Arcturus
  - it will be the Pole Star in 12,000 years time
  - the constellation's other main stars are 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> magnitude.
- Lyra contains two Messier objects
  - M57, The Ring Nebula, is a Planetary nebula, i.e. the remains of a star that has exploded about 8,000 years ago and sloughed off its material, seen as a torus
  - M56 is a globular cluster
- The constellation is home to several really attractive double stars
  - including the famous Double-Double, Epsilon Lyrae

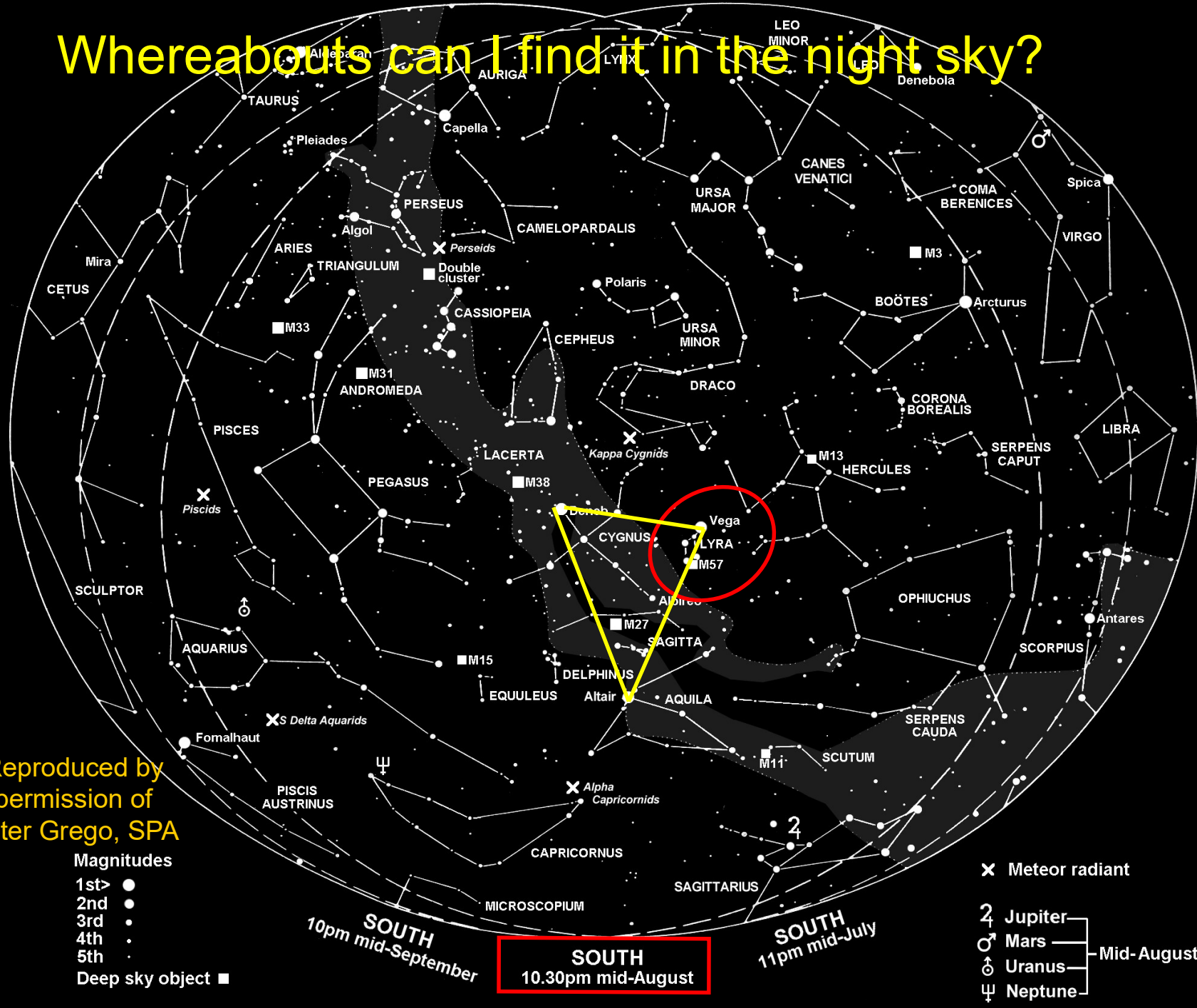
# Whereabouts can I find it in the night sky?

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- Magnitudes
- 1st > ●
  - 2nd ●
  - 3rd ●
  - 4th ●
  - 5th ●
  - Deep sky object ■

✕ Meteor radiant

- ♃ Jupiter
  - ♂ Mars
  - ♅ Uranus
  - ♆ Neptune
- Mid-August



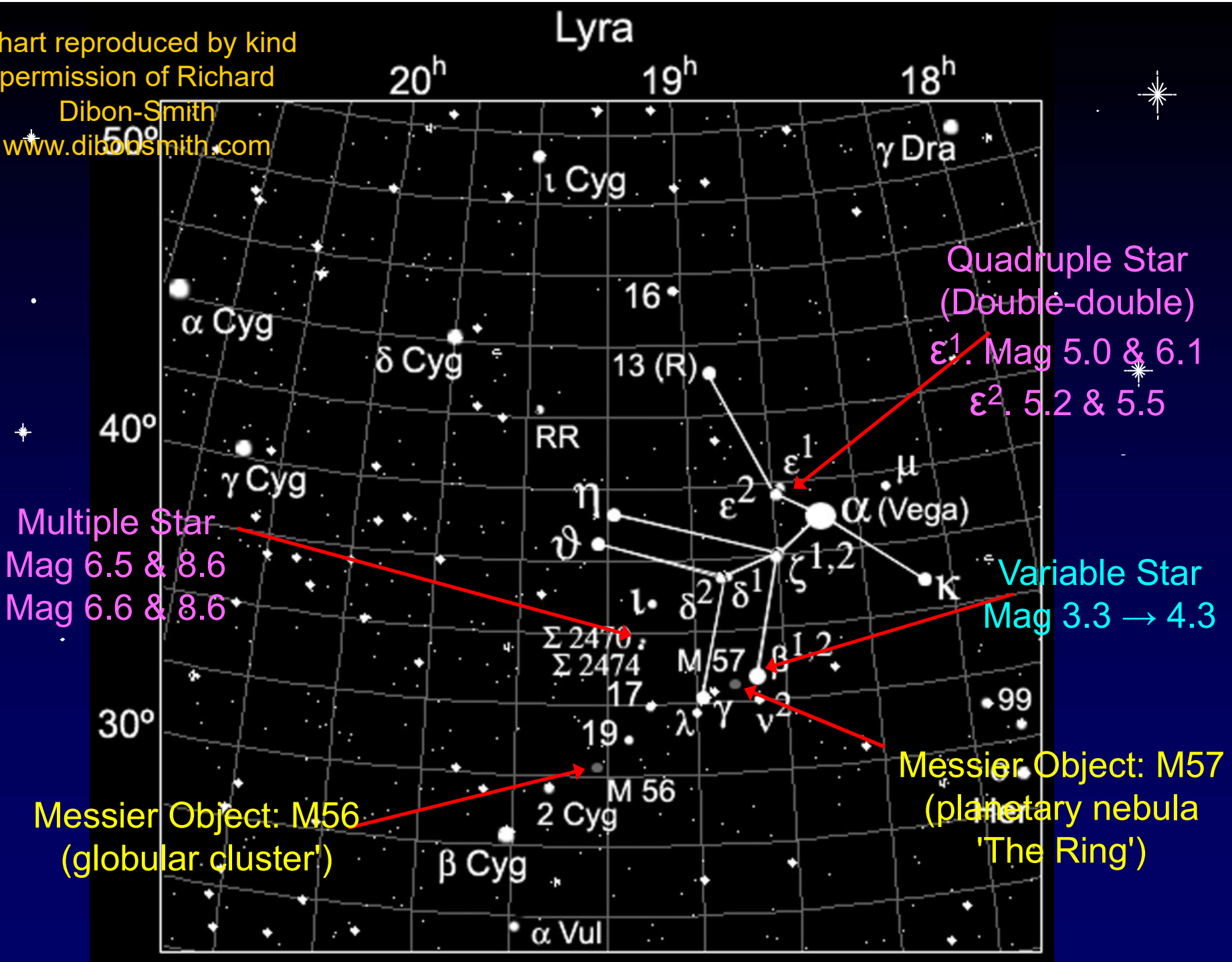
SOUTH  
10pm mid-September

SOUTH  
10.30pm mid-August

SOUTH  
11pm mid-July

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Dibon-Smith  
[www.dibonsmith.com](http://www.dibonsmith.com)



Quadruple Star  
(Double-double)  
 $\epsilon^1$ . Mag 5.0 & 6.1  
 $\epsilon^2$ . 5.2 & 5.5

Multiple Star  
Mag 6.5 & 8.6  
Mag 6.6 & 8.6

Variable Star  
Mag 3.3  $\rightarrow$  4.3

Messier Object: M56  
(globular cluster')

Messier Object: M57  
(planetary nebula  
'The Ring')



**M57 (NGC 5272)**

**Planetary Nebula**



**Distance 1,140 light years**  
**Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.8**

**Apparent Dimensions 76 arc seconds**  
**Discovered 1779, Antoine Darquier**



**M56 (NGC 6779)**

**Globular Cluster**



**Distance** 31,000 light years  
**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 8.4

**Apparent Dimension** 7 arc minutes  
**Discovered** 1779 Charles Messier