Musicplay Newsletter Spring 2004 - Spring into Music!

1. St. Patrick's Day

2. Easter

3. Mother's Day

In the Spring newsletter I'm hoping to highlight some ideas to use for St. Patrick's Day, Easter and Mother's Day. If you want a copy of the newsletter in pdf format with the music notation, all you have to do is request it by email. (Note: All music is © Themes & Variations and is for the teachers classroom use only) Workshops are available - email tymusic@agt.net for information.

1. St. Patrick's Day Jig

In the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" there is a St. Patrick's Day Jig: (This is also found in Grade One Musicplay elementary music program. In Alberta, now available from LRC)

Oh come along with me and I will show you how to play, We'll dance and sing like leprachauns upon St Patrick's Day. Oh dance a jig, an Irish jig, upon St Patrick's Day. We'll dance and sing like leprechauns upon St. Patrick's Day!



DIRECTIONS: Have the class form a circle. Choose 1 child to be a leprachaun. The leprechaun marches around the inside of the circle. At the end of the second phrase the leprechaun stops in front of a child. They join hands they "jig" - left heel forward, right heel forward etc. The children in the circle should do a "sailor's hornpipe" at the same time. (fold arms and jig in place.) Now two children march inside the circle - the first chosen and his partner. They choose two more partners and jig again. Continue with four, then eight, then sixteen, then the entire class. Play again with a new leader if you aren't too exhausted. If you have a child in your class that can't celebrate St. Patrick's Day, use the words "upon this happy day" instead of the original version.

St. Patrick's Day - Boomwhacker Dance.

Choose a piece of celtic music with a steady, moderate beat. The "Connaughtman's Ramble" found on CD4 #25 of "Musicplay for Kindergarten" is an ideal tempo and length. Visit www.christmasconcert.com for information on "Musicplay for Kindergarten". A very simple choreography for this selection follows: (* from Musicplay for Kindergarten music curriculum. In Alberta, now available from LRC)

Have all the children form 2 lines across the back of your classroom.

- 1. Beats 1-16: listen to the music for the tempo
- 2. Beats 17-32: Forward: (step) right, left, right, hop and clap; (step) left, right, left, hop and clap; Forward: (step) right, left, right, hop and clap; (step) left, right, left, hop and clap;
- 3. Beats 33-48: To the right: step -close-step-hop and clap To the right: step-close-step-hop and clap To the left: step-close-step-hop and clap
- 4. Beats 49-64: Forward: (step) right, left, right, hop and clap; (step) left, right, left, hop and clap; Forward: (step) right, left, right, hop and clap; (step) left, right, left, hop and clap;
- 5. Beats 65-80: To the right: step -close-step-hop and clap To the right: step-close-step-hop and clap To the left: step-close-step-hop and clap
- 6. Beats 81:96: Bring the back row through to the front (front row does the steps in place) Forward: step right, left, right, hop and clap; step left, right, left, hop and clap; All do the steps in place: step right, left, right, hop and clap; step left, right, left, hop and clap;
- 7. Beats 97-112: Circle to the right turn for 6 beats clap twice (1 2 3 4 5 6 clap clap) Circle to the left - turn for 6 beats - clap twice (1 2 3 4 5 6 clap clap)
- 8. Beats 113:128 In place: hop on left foot extend right heel; hop on right foot and extend left heel; hop on left foot extend right heel clap (Say: hop hop hop clap or heel heel clap) Do the reverse: hop on right foot and extend left heel; hop on left foot extend right heel; hop on left foot extend right heel clap

Give each child a boomwhacker, and have them hit the boomwhacker in place of the clap. (This is Danece Workman's idea - she said I could use it in the newsletter)

Other steps to try: right left-right left clap (ta titi ta clap)

Forward: step right, bring left knee up and clap (hop if you're energetic), repeat Backward: step right, bring left knee up and clap (hop if you're energetic), repeat

For added color, tie green ribbons to a wrist elastic and give each child a pair to wear. (This is also Danece Workman's idea - her mother made her 50 pairs of green wrist ribbons)

Easter Ideas:

All of these ideas come from the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" - see www.christmasconcert.com Visit www.christmasconcert.com - singing games and action songs

Hurry Easter Bunny

* from the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" - see www.christmasconcert.com Easter bunny, Easter bunny, hurry hurry do. Or the children in the houses will be catching you!



DIRECTIONS: The children form a circle. Choose one child to be the bunny. The bunny hops around the outside of the circle while all the children sing the song. At the end of the song, the "bunny" tags a child who hops after the bunny. If the bunny gets tagged he is "caught". If the bunny makes it to the opening in the circle before being tagged he is safe. Both children sit in the middle of the circle after racing and a new bunny is chosen.

Find the Easter Basket

* from the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" - see www.christmasconcert.com

* also in Musicplay elementary music program grades 2-3-4-5 In Alberta now available from LRC.

Tisket a tasket a green and yellow basket

look up here, look down there,

you won't find it anywhere



DIRECTIONS: Choose one child to hide the Easter basket and another child to look for it. The child who is going to hunt for the basket leaves the room or hides eyes while the hider hides it. The basket must be hidden in plain sight. When the finder returns, the class sings the song, singing softly when he/she is far away from the basket, and singing louder as he/she gets closer to the basket. The game continues until everyone in the class has had a turn to hide the basket or to find it. It usually takes more than one class to give everyone a turn. I don't give turns to do both - you either get to hide or find. This is a great game for reviewing dynamics. You can use this game with all grade levels.

Bunny pokey

* from the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" - see www.christmasconcert.com You put your left paw in, you put your left paw out You put your left paw in and you shake it all about You do the bunny pokey and you hop all about, And that's what it's all about! 2. You put your right paw in..... 3. You put your left leg in.....

- 4. You put your right leg in.....
- 5. You put your left ear in.....
- 6. You put your right ear in.....
- 7. You put your bunny tail in.....
- 8. You put the whole bunny in.....

Sung to the tune of the "Hokey Pokey" - just a fun game to add for the kindergarten classes.

Hide the Easter eggs game

* from the book "Sing and Play on Special Days" - see www.christmasconcert.com * also in Musicplay elementary music program grade 1 In Alberta now available from LRC. Five little bunnies hopping up and down, hiding Easter eggs all around Orange, yellow pink and green, Hide them where they can be seen Five little bunnies hopping up and down, hiding Easter eggs all around

Sung to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle"

Choose 5 students to hide colored eggs while the others close their eyes and sing the song. When the song is over, hunt for the eggs. Choose 5 new students to hide the eggs.



Mothers Day:

Mom's Are Special:

(* from Musicplay for Kindergarten music curriculum. In Alberta, now available from LRC) In "Musicplay for Kindergarten" there is a new mother's day song. Divide the class into 3 groups. Group 1: this group wears aprons and holds mixing bowls and spoons Group 2: this group has blankets that they pull up to their chins Group 3: this group has books that they hold up.

All sing verse 1:

Moms are special. Moms are nice.	(G B GB G ED)
Moms are special. Moms are nice.	(F# A F#A G ED)
Moms are special. Moms are nice because they love us so.	(G B GB C CC C B B AA G)

Group 1 sings verse 2: * this group wears aprons and holds mixing bowls and spoons My mom cooks me lots of food. My mom cooks me lots of food. My mom cooks me lots of food because she loves me so.

Group 2 sings verse 3: * this group has blankets that they pull up to their chins My mom tucks me in at night. My mom tucks me in at night.

My mom tucks me in at night because she loves me so.

Group 3 sings verse 4: * this group has books that they hold up.

My mom reads me lots of books.

My mom reads me lots of books.

My mom reads me lots of books because she loves me so.

All sing verse 1 to end the song.



Theres a fun song in Musicplay for Kindergarten called "Frog in my Pocket" - the kids will enjoy singing about the "frog in their pocket", "earthworms in this hand", "ants in my gym shoes" and the "mouse in my lunch kit".

There are 2 mothers's day songs in the book "Sing and Play on Special Days". My students always like "That's my Mom" from this collection.

Musicplay for Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Musicplay program has been written to be a complete cross-curricular approach to teaching music and to teaching other subject areas through music. This program include songs for all the themes you teach. These are just a few of the themes and academic areas that are included: names, colors, shapes, numbers, alphabet, fall, Halloween, pumpkins Thanksgiving, peace, friends, families, whales, beaches, dinosaurs, helmet safety, traffic safety and more! Musical Concepts are taught through traditional and composed action songs, singing games, singalong songs, chants and activities. This is a program for BOTH the Kindergarten classroom teacher and the music specialist with a real emphasis on integrating learning through music. With more than 170 songs on 6 performance/accompaniment CD's, this is a comprehensive music program for Kindergarten! Teachers are encouraged to add and incorporate the Alphabet Action songs into the program. (recorded and sold separately)

Kindergarten Musicplay Binder with 6 CD's: Introductory Price #731 \$100Cdn \$75US

In Alberta - this is now available from LRC and can be purchased with textbook funding.

Kindergarten Big Book: The Kindergarten Big Book illustrates the musical concepts that are taught in the Musicplay for Kindergarten program. It is also a support for early literacy programs in that it includes many of the shorter songs in chart format, so that beginning readers can read the words to the songs. The 11x17 format fits nicely on a black music stand, and the coils make page turns easy. There are teaching suggestions given for each page in the book. #738 \$30

In Alberta - this is now available from LRC and can be purchased with textbook funding.

Musicplay Grades 1-6

The Musicplay elementary music program is a complete curriculum for teaching music to grades 1-6. Musicplay is carefully sequenced and easy to use for the classroom teacher who teachers her own music, and for the Orff or Kodaly trained music specialist. Orff arrangements for grades 1-5 are all contained in "The Orff Source". Rhythm and melody flashcard, Charts 1/2 and "Songs to Read, Write, Sing and Play" supplement the program for both Kodaly and Orff trained teachers. Listening materials to correlate with Musicplay are found in the "Listening Resource Kits 1-5". Musicplay is affordable - about 1/10th the cost of "Share the Music" - yet contains all the same components in a simpler, less expensive format! See for yourself - visit www.christmasconcert.com and download sample lessons, hear audio samples and view curriculum correlations.

Sing and Play on Special Days

This is a versatile collection of <u>67</u> singing games, rounds, poems, songs with Orff accompaniments, and unison and 2 part /piano songs for special days in the school year. Whether you are looking for a song to perform at an assembly, or for classroom teaching materials, you will find this book/CD a valuable resource! Songs include 'I'm Glad I'm Back at School', 'Hugs and Kisses' and 'Thank You'. Teacher guide/CD: #128B \$25 *\$20US* Sampler CD: Track 6

Alphabet Action Songs: These songs will have you moving to the beat while you learn the letters of the alphabet. For each letter, a story, a phonics song AND an action song are given. The two CD's include vocal performances for you to learn the songs, and accompaniment (karaoke) tracks for the action songs so you can perform them in assemblies. #730 \$30Cdn \$25 US

Themes & Variations has affordable publications for the elementary music classroom written by experienced music teachers. We have great rhythm and melody flashcards; reproducible recorder kits; Listening Resource Kits; and the Musicplay music text for K-6. To order any publication mentioned in this newsletter:

web site: www.christmasconcert.com Email: tvmusic@telusplanet.net Fax/Phone: 1-888-562-4647

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