

# Recorder Fun - Practice Makes Perfect

Jan. 2009 Musicplay Newsletter

[www.musicplay.ca](http://www.musicplay.ca)

It's the time of year when many teachers like to begin teaching recorders. Students are always really excited when they get their recorders. Keeping the students excited about learning to play an instrument can be more of a challenge. Some teachers only have their students for 30 minutes each week. It's nearly impossible to teach an instrument well in a 30 minute group lesson unless your students will practice at home. So --- how do you encourage your students to practice? And how do you ensure that they are practicing well?

**Accompaniment CDs:** Students who practice with an accompaniment CD practice more, and practice more effectively than students who use only the music. Playing with an accompaniment keeps the students more focussed and on-task. Our Recorder Resource Student Book 1 and 2 with CD are only \$6. We pay the tax and the shipping cost on class sets.

#250 Recorder Resource Student Book & CD 1 \$6.00

#210 Recorder Resource Student Book & CD 2 \$6.00

**Free Sample Book/CD** - We will be happy to mail a free sample book/CD to any teacher who requests. Email [tvmusic@telusplanet.net](mailto:tvmusic@telusplanet.net) to request your free sample.

**Packages with Recorder - Book - CD** are available for \$8 - 10

We pay the tax and shipping cost on class sets of packages.

P1 Handel 2 pc Baroque-Book-CD 1 \$10

P2 Handel 2 pc German-Book-CD 1 \$10

P3 Handel Economy-Book-CD 1 \$8

P7 Yamaha Baroque-Book-CD 1 \$10

P8 Yamaha German-Book-CD 1 \$10

In the USA, packages with the Recorder Resource Student book and Yamaha recorder are available from West Music. Visit [www.musicplay.ca](http://www.musicplay.ca) or phone/fax 1-888-562-4647 to order recorders, book-CD sets, and packages.

**Practice Cards or Bugs:** Dated practice charts can be a motivator for the students, but they create extra work for the teacher to keep track of. Practice Bugs are much easier to keep track of and are fun for students to complete. Post on a bulletin board with the heading: **Recorder Players Bug Me.** For a copy of a practice bug to give to your students, email [tvmusic@telusplanet.net](mailto:tvmusic@telusplanet.net) and I'll send you one as a pdf file.

## Recorder Karate:

An incentive program that has really helped to motivate students involves giving students belts, like karate belts, colored stickers, or swimming badges, for each level that they have mastered. Choose 4-7 songs from your recorder program that represent easy-difficult levels of difficulty. Use the following songs in the Complete Recorder Resource Kit Level 1:

White belt	Song #8,	Hot Cross Buns (theme or variation)
Yellow belt	Song #17,	Skin and Bones
Blue belt	Song # 24,	Hush Little Baby
Green belt	Song # 29	Ode to Joy
Black belt	Song #35	Jingle Bells

In the Complete Recorder Resource Kit Level 2, you can use the following songs:

White belt: BAG blues

Yellow belt: Chatter with the Angels

Orange (or Blue) belt: Chopsticks

Green belt: The Scale

Black belt: My Country 'Tis of Thee or O Canada

**Extra Music:** Some students are really motivated by having more challenging music to practice than the majority of the students are able to play. Order solo recorder books and keep them in the school library for students to sign out just like a regular library book. Offer students packages of music to learn. If you can find sources of reproducible recorder music, it's easy to assemble packages of music that students can have as "challenge" materials.

Themes & Variations publishes a variety of reproducible recorder music:

116	Recorder Resource Kit 1	\$40	
119	Recorder Resource Kit 2	\$40	
117	Holiday Songs for Recorder	\$20	- holiday music for recorder
AL12	Recorder Fingering / Note Flashcards	\$20	- large flashcards
JC1	Jazz Cats Recorder Collection	\$15	- beginning jazz for recorder
RBAG	BIG B-A-G Collection/CD	\$20	- just BAG songs
RFLK1	Favorite Folk Songs Vol. 1/CD	\$20	- soprano recorder duets
RSATB	SATB Ensembles	\$15	- easy ensembles for Gr. 5-6-7

Visit [www.musicplay.ca](http://www.musicplay.ca) or phone/fax 1-888-562-4647  
to order these reproducible collections.

**Alto - Tenor - Bass Recorder:** Older students will really enjoy the challenge of learning to play alto, tenor and bass recorder. An optional alto part is included in the Recorder Kit 2. If you have really short music classes, you may find it easier to use the transposed alto part that is included. We've included this option in the Recorder Kit 2 and in the SATB ensembles. We have very reasonable prices on alto (\$15), tenor (\$40) and bass (\$195) recorders. With the purchase of a tenor or bass recorder, we include a free copy of SATB ensembles.

## **Upcoming Workshops:**

January 30 - 31, 2009 Concordia University College, Edmonton, Alberta  
The Alberta Kodaly Association: Singposium 2009  
For information or to register online visit [www.albertakodaly.ca](http://www.albertakodaly.ca)

Denise Gagné is presenting workshops in the Spring 2009 as follows:

January 24, 2009	Las Vegas Orff Chapter workshops
Feb. 5	Kentucky Music Educators, Louisville, KY
Feb 11-14	Texas Music Educators Association, San Antonio
Feb. 19	Lethbridge Teachers Convention
Feb. 20	Palliser Teachers Convention
Feb. 26-28	Kansas Music Educators Association
March 5-6	Grande Prairie Teachers Convention
March 12-15	MENC EAST, Rhode Island
May 21-22	Maine Music Educators Association

If you'd like to book a workshop with Denise Gagné, please email [tvmusic@telusplanet.net](mailto:tvmusic@telusplanet.net) or visit [www.musicplay.ca](http://www.musicplay.ca) to view workshop topics and sessions.

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