

Build Newsletter 13-01-18 Ready for Recorders?

Theme



Jan. 18, 2013 Ready for Recorders?

Ready for Recorders?

For many teachers, January is when the students in Grade 3, 4, or 5 start learning to play the recorder. While the recorder may seem like a simple instrument, there are many skills needed to be successful. Students must be able to:

- * tell which is their left and right hands
- * hold the recorder with the left hand at the top, right hand at the bottom
- * cover tiny holes with finger pads - not finger tips
- * start the note with the tongue
- * continue the air stream between notes to create a legato sound
- * breathe in appropriate places
- * demonstrate correct fingerings for notes
- * read the names of the notes
- * read and perform rhythms
- * understand meter
- * follow a conductor
- * demonstrate appropriate rehearsal skills
- * articulate: slur in some places, tongue in others
- * develop good intonation
- * develop a beautiful sound

This list is daunting for an adult! Breaking the skills down, isolating and teaching one skill at a time will help all of your students become successful recorder players. In this newsletter, I've got some tips for teaching students to read the names of the notes.

Tip #1. Start teaching note names well before you order or hand out the recorders! Your students in K-2 should learn about the staff as part of their music classes. They should learn how to number the lines and spaces from the bottom to the top, and you can teach them that the treble clef circles the note G. If you review this when you are showing them a piece of music, the note G will be learned long before starting recorder. I like to use the floor staff and the hand staff to teach letter names. A post on Floor staff games can be found on my new blog www.denisegagne.com. In this newsletter, I'll discuss the hand staff.

Hand Staff for K-2: If you hold your left hand in front of you with your thumb up, palm facing you and your fingers spread out, it's easy to imagine that your hand is a staff. You have five fingers, just like there are five lines on the music staff. In K-2 have the students point to each finger starting with the finger that is closest to the floor. Number the "lines" of the hand staff.

Pointing Game: Call out "line one" or "line five" and have the students point to the correct "line." Have a student be the leader and call out the line number. Then, point to the space between the fingers. This is the "space." Call out "first space" or "third space" and have the students point to the correct "space."

Students like to be the leaders of the pointing game. When they are successful at just lines or just spaces, include both lines and spaces in the game. Transfer the Pointing Game to an actual staff. The **cookie sheet staff** is fun for the students to use! I bought my cookie sheets at Dollarama for \$1.50 and the magnets at Walmart - 50/\$5. The staff is photocopied and covered with sheet protector from --- yup! Dollarama.

Letter Names Gr. 3-5: Starting in third or fourth grade, teach the letter names of the notes. I use these poems to introduce the line and space notes.

The notes on the line spell Every Good Boy Does Fine. (E G B D F)
The notes in the space, Spell your FACE! (F A C E)

Themes & Variations

Canadian Office
 #2-4664 Riverside Drive
 Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6Y5

US Office
 PO Box 309
 Danville, WA, 99121

Phone/Fax
1-888-562-4647
 (real people answer our phones!)

Email:
tvinfo@telus.net

www.musicplay.ca

New Apps!

Learn and Play Recorder
[LINK to App](#)

We've created a new app for iphone/ipad for teaching recorder in your music classes, and for students to download and practice with at home! The app is based on the Recorder Resource and includes everything that's in the student books: All About the Recorder, How to Care for the Recorder, How Notes are Named, Counting Music and 38 songs with full performance. You can start and stop or pause the track if you need more practice.

www.musicplay.ca

Workshops are available with Denise Gagne or with Dan Fee (WI - Listening Fun with Scarves and Tennis Balls) Email denisegagne1@gmail.com for more information

Workshops

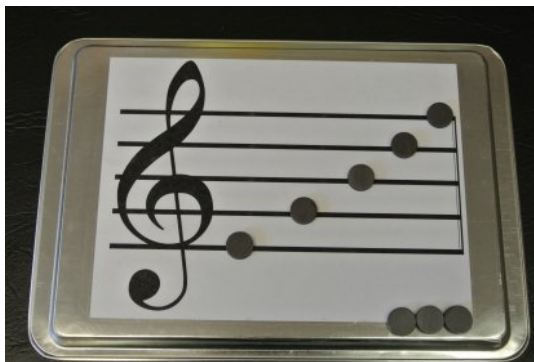
Fullscreen

Preview

Save

Save &
Schedule/Send

Back



Lines: Name the first line E, second line G, third line B, fourth line D and fifth line F. Play the pointing game having the leader call out E, G, B, D or F.

Spaces: Name the first space F, second space A, third space C and fourth space E. Play the pointing game having the leader call out F A C E.

When students are successful at just lines or just spaces, include both lines and spaces in the game. No worksheets are needed to teach or review the note names - just the students hands. (and/or the cookie sheet) You can play the pointing games whenever you have a few minutes at the end of a class.

When the students can name the notes successfully, review some of the simple reading songs from previous grade levels by having students sing the letter names that you point to on the staff. (hand staff or a staff drawn on the board) When doing this, introduce some of the easy recorder songs that they'll be learning to play later in the year. If you are using the Complete Recorder Resource Kit, some of the simple songs that you could have the students sing include Hot Cross Buns or Doggie Doggie. Each of these simple songs are singing games, so after singing the letter names, sing the song and play the game. When you give out recorders later in the year, the students will be able to sight-read the pieces on recorder much more easily after having learned them in the fall.



Play the Hot Cross Buns Game: The basic clapping pattern for this game is that of pat-a-cake. Clap your own hands and then both your patterns hands. This very simple clapping pattern is the first clapping pattern to use with your students. An interesting 'twist' can be given to this simple pattern by having children cross their arms onto their own shoulders on the word "cross". This adds considerable challenge to what was previously an easy clapping game. Challenge #2 - on the word hot, "fan" your face; on the word cross, "cross arms" and on the word "buns" - grab your buns. Fun!!!

Download our recorder app! **Learn and Play Recorder** has everything that you need for your beginning recorder classes. Use the app to teach in class, and give your students the link to download at home and practice!

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/learn-and-play-recorder/id543660617?mt=8>

Canadian Teachers - Information on our Recorder Packages can be found at www.musicplay.ca

Holiday Concert Scripts:

Holiday concerts are done! Did you write a script for your concert? We're starting to assemble a collections of scripts for holiday concerts. Some of the themes in the scripts submitted include Around the World, A Pioneer Christmas. These scripts reference the songs that were performed, and the sources that the songs were found in.

There's still time to submit your script! Email scripts to denisegagne1@gmail.com Scripts must be original, and can not have been submitted elsewhere, including MK8 listserv. Teachers will be paid if scripts are used, and will receive free copies of the script collection.

Artie and Denise Summer 2013

Jan. 26th Honolulu Orff Chapter (want to join me?) Yes, I'm excited about this one too!
- Music and Literacy
- Favorite Singing Games
- Assessment made Easy
- Listening Fun & Games

Feb. 7-8, 2013 North Central Teacher's Convention

Feb 13-16, 2013 TMEA
Smart Recorder: Apps and Digital resources for teaching recorder
Explore Cultures through songs and games

Feb. 21, 2013
Central Alberta Teacher's Convention
* I'm doing the same sessions that I'll be doing in Texas. If you can't go to TMEA, you get to have the sessions in Red Deer

Feb. 23, 2013
Idaho Orff Chapter

March 13, 2013
Edmonton
1:
Music for Early Childhood, Special Ed, Preschool and Kindergarten

March 21-22 OAKE
American Kodaly Conference
- The Dollarama Diva or Manipulatives for the Music Room

April 6, 2013
Arkansas Orff Chapter

April 20, 2013
BC Kodaly Association, Victoria, BC

May 3rd, 2013
New Brunswick, PD Day

Ontario workshops are possible on May 1-2 or 6-7. This will depend on resolution of labour troubles.

August 17, 2013
Melbourne Australia Orff Early Childhood Division

Musicplay Grant

Apply now to receive funding to assist with the purchase of K-6 music curriculum!
Overview

At Themes & Variations we are committed to providing quality affordable materials for teaching K-6 music classes. Our Musicplay K-5 curriculum with digital resources is just \$1625, however we realize that funds may not be available for it in high needs schools. We believe that all children have the right to a musical education, and Themes & Variations is providing funding to assist schools in acquiring the Musicplay K-6 curriculum for their students. Funding to provide 25-100% of the cost of the Musicplay curriculum will be awarded to successful applicants.

Guidelines

Schools may apply at any time for funding. The application may be completed by a principal, music teacher or classroom teacher who teaches his/her own music classes.

Schools will be notified within 30 days of applying. Fill in the application.

Fullscreen

Preview

Save

Save & Schedule/Send

Back

Join Artie Almeida and Denise Gagne in Orlando for three days of sensational elementary music clinics! Network with colleagues from across the United States and Canada, and start the new school year with a multitude of great lesson ideas!

Early Bird Registration - \$200 After June 1st - \$215

For more information:
Email Artie at musicja@mac.com
Visit www.music.cah.ucf.edu

Bring the family and have a Disney vacation!

Are you Doing Workshops?- I'm happy to send out Resource Booklets and/or sample materials to anyone who's doing workshops for teachers using any Themes & Variations publication. If you are doing a workshop, let me know if I can help you in any way.

If you live in one of these states, I'd love to come and do a workshop and finish my bucket list! Arizona, Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Vermont, West Virginia
I'll be close to Vermont in May 2013!

Coming Soon - Vocal Warmups for Singers and Choir

- An app for iphone/ipad and Android.
- final testing is underway!

E-mail to tvmusic@telusplanet.net or fax the application to 1-888-562-4647.

Reporting Requirements:
Schools receiving grants must complete a brief questionnaire 6 months after receiving their curriculum.

Grants have been awarded to more than 30 schools!
(We will post a list online!)

Applications are available at www.musicplay.ca

Free Materials

Are you using any of our materials (Themes & Variations publications) in your Holiday Concert, an assembly, or in your classes? If you are performing any of Themes & Variations songs, send us a video of your concert, and we'll give you a \$25 credit for materials! We LOVE to see your performances of our songs. (We must be able to post excerpts on YouTube)



Fullscreen

Preview

Save

Save & Schedule/Send

Back