

The Christmas Concert Idea Book

Themes & Variations



**12 Original songs with mini-plays, choreography
and staging ideas for Grades 1-5.**

Teacher's Handbook:

**Includes piano accompaniments, staging ideas,
and reproducible student handouts.**

The Christmas Concert Idea Book

The Christmas Concert Idea Book is a collection of songs and mini-plays written for my classes over a period of about ten years. Mini-plays are designed for a classroom teacher who wants to dramatize a story for the Christmas Concert, but doesn't want to produce a full length musical. Mini-plays are easy to prepare, and give several children the opportunity to do solos. I can't take the credit for the idea. The first year at my Junior High, all I had for the Christmas Concert was 15 minutes of beginner band music. An appeal to all staff for input resulted in the drama classes producing skits which were performed between the band selections. The result was one of the most entertaining Junior High Concerts I've ever had.

The songs that include choreography are written for the same purpose - to provide the audience with more entertainment than a traditional choral selection. All staging ideas are suggestions only. Many of you will use your own ideas, or your students' ideas for a really effective performance. Feel free to add or change dialogue to personalize your concert.

The script that is included with this edition of the Christmas Concert Idea Book was sent to me by Anne Marie Woytowich of Lawrence Elementary School in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. They chose to use the songs in the idea book, with some additions, as the basis of an all school production.

The piano accompaniments are not difficult. To make it even easier for you to teach these songs, an audio download file is included with vocals and accompaniments. The teacher who purchases this book is given permission to photocopy the student pages for the use of their own class. Please do not photocopy piano accompaniments.

Many thanks to Brenda Middagh for her wonderful illustrations and her assistance with the layout! Your ideas and input are always welcomed! Please feel free to let me know what you liked about the book, and offer suggestions for the next edition.

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1. Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year

Child 1: What do you like best about Christmas?

Child 2: Presents - lots and lots of new toys!

Child 3: Food - turkey and stuffing and lots of junk food.

Child 4: I like going to sit on Santa's knee at the mall.

Child 5: I like driving around looking at Christmas lights.

Child 6: Christmas is definitely the best time of the year!

Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year

Christmas is my favorite time of year. (clap clap)

Santa brings us presents with his sleigh and reindeer.

Wouldn't be much fun, if it were never done.

Christmas is my favorite time of year. (clap clap)

I like the presents, I like the cards.

I like decorations on my house and in my yard.

I like baby Jesus born in the hay.

After all that's why we have a Christmas day.

Christmas is my favorite time of year. (clap clap)

Santa brings us presents with his sleigh and reindeer.

Wouldn't be much fun, if it were never done.

Christmas is my favorite time of year. (clap clap)

2. Makin' Christmas Cookies

Child 1: Let's make some cookies!

Child 2: With raisins.

Child 3: And chocolate chips.

Child 4: Smarties

Child 5: Sprinkles

Child 6: We'll cut them out in neat shapes.

Child 7: And then we'll put more candies on them.

Makin' Christmas Cookies

I'm gonna get a bowl, gonna pour in some flour,
mush up the sugar and the bu bu butter.

Chorus: I'm makin' Christmas cookies, gonna taste so fine
and I'll leave some for Santa on Christmas night.

Stir the dough (X X X) Stir it up well (X X X)

Taste a bit (X X X) We won't tell (X X X)

I'm gonna roll the dough, gonna cut out some shapes.

Put it in the oven let it bake bake bake. **Chorus:**

Roll the dough (X X X) Cut out some shapes (X X X)

Put it in the oven (X X X) Let it bake bake bake (X X X)

I'm gonna bake the cookies let them cool down.

Put on some candies, then I'll munch them down. **Chorus:**

Eat them up (X X X) Taste so fine (X X X)

Eat them all (X X X) Cause they're mine mine mine. (X X X) **Chorus twice:**

Our Favorite Time of Year

by Anne Marie Woytowich
Lawrence Elementary School, North Battleford, Saskatchewan
Additional suggestions by Denise Gagne

Setting: Lauren and Andy, the M.C.'s posed as reporters and "interviewed" a representative of each class. The interview was followed by the song from the Christmas Concert Idea Book, with some additional selections by the school band. This "production" allowed us to keep a common theme, yet each class was able to practice and perform their selection on their own.

Interview Script:

MC: "Good evening. I'm _____ and this is _____ (names of MC's) from _____ School. We're on the scene of our annual Christmas Concert. Thank you, Concert Band, for setting the mood for the evening. Today/tonight we are going to ask why Christmas is our favorite time of year."

MC: "Here with us today/this evening are representatives from each class of _____ School. _____ (child's name), what is the Grade 1's favorite part about Christmas?"

Grade 1 child: "Our song tonight tells about many of the things that make Christmas special."

Grade 1's Sing: Christmas is my Favorite Time of Year

MC: _____ (child's name), What is the kindergarten class going to tell us about tonight?

Kindergarten child: "We're making Christmas cookies!"

Kindergarten sings: Makin' Christmas Cookies

MC: _____ (child's name), What does the Grade 2 class like best about Christmas?

Grade 2 child: "We like getting presents from Santa!"

Grade 2's Sing: Presents and Time to Pack the Sleigh

Teacher Notes

1. Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year

Costumes: Everyday clothes

This would make a good opener for your concert. This works well with K-3 students. There are four optional solos in this song. If you have some confident singers, it enhances the song to use the solos.

2. Makin' Christmas Cookies

Costume idea: Chef's hats (made at school), aprons (from home), with mixing bowls and wooden spoons or utensils for the instrumental part. This song works really well with K-3 students.

You can purchase paper chef's hats at wholesale grocery supply stores. You could purchase a class set, or you could purchase enough to make your own pattern. One of my children had a birthday party at a fast food restaurant, and the party hats provided were small chef's hats. You might want to approach your local restaurants and ask for donations.

3. Pack the Sleigh

Costume idea: Elf collars made out of green paper. Oversized toques and oversized socks. Tights or knee socks, shorts and a solid color t-shirt. Wear the t-shirt (a big t-shirt will work better) and tie a length of twine around the waist for a belt.

This song works well with K-4 students.

During the Dance Break you can make up your own dance, use the choreography given in the piano accompaniments or you could hand jive. When doing the twist on risers, don't move your feet - just swivel the hips. It's great exercise! During the verse, try snapping left and right.

4. Santa's Computer

Costume idea: Cover a cardboard box with tin foil and flashing Christmas lights to look like a "computer" - or move one of your school computers into the gym. The "choir" can be in normal clothing, with a few kids dressed like technicians in white lab coats with tool belts and clipboards (or nerds). We borrow our science teacher's lab coat for this song. Santa should be in a Santa suit. You can purchase inexpensive Santa suits at most discount department stores.

You may need to rewrite the script to poke fun at your own principal. Simply white out the parts that aren't appropriate for your situation and insert your own jokes.

This song works well with Grade 2-5 students.

5. Christmas Spirit

Costume: Kids in everyday clothes - an older lady in a rocking chair off to one side of the stage. This song was based on a news story that came out of Vancouver. A paper boy delivering his papers, noticed that one of his regular customers wasn't putting up any Christmas decorations. She had lost her husband that year, and was depressed. The boy and some of his friends bought a tree, decorated it and brought it to her.

Props Needed: Decorated tree and gifts to give to the older lady.

This song works well with Grade 2-6 students. The flute part is easy enough that a good Grade 6 flutist could play it.



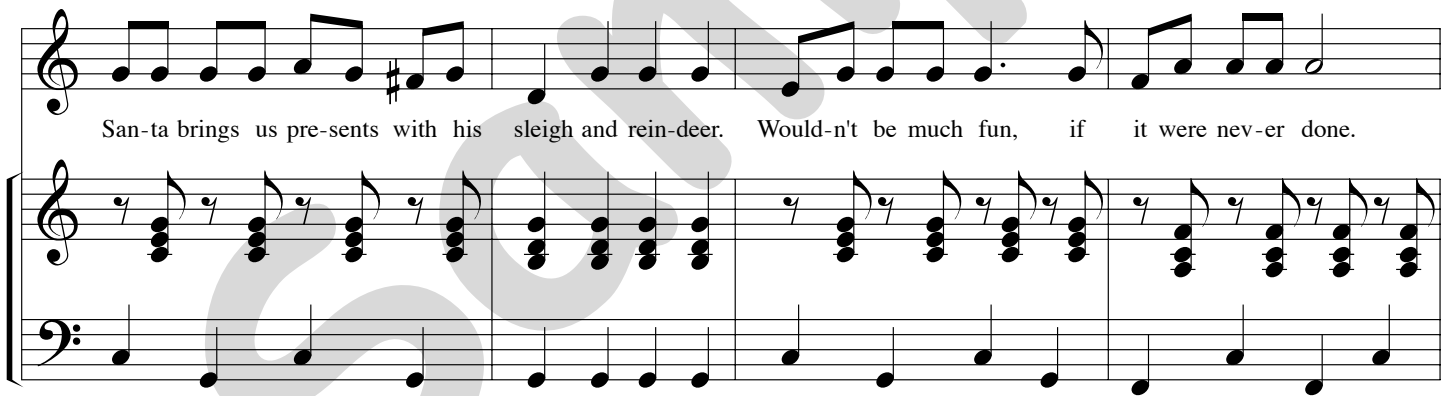
1. Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year

(4 bar intro on CD) D. Gagne

Christ-mas is my fav-orite time of year. (clap clap)



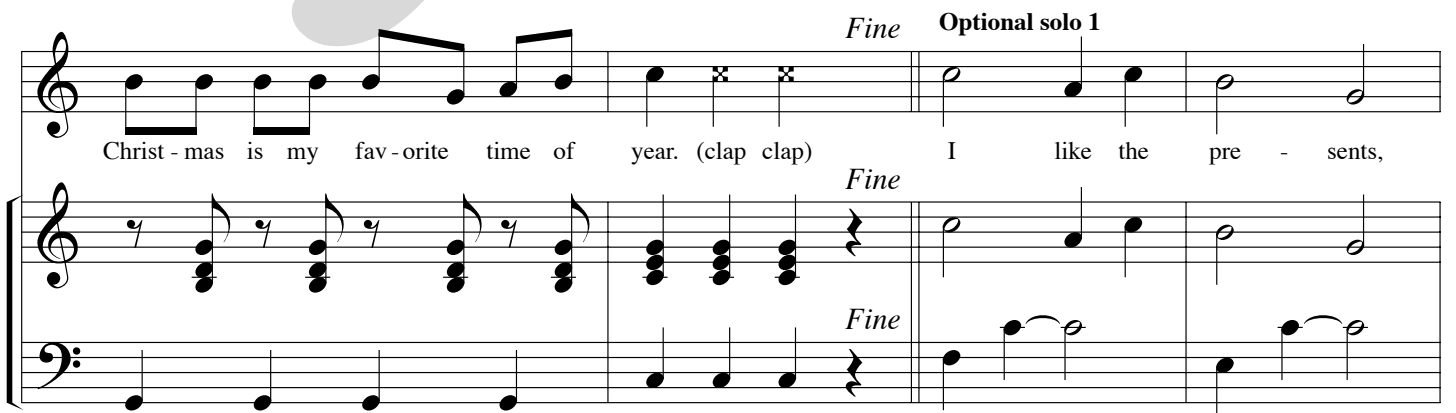
San-ta brings us pre-sents with his sleigh and rein-deer. Would-n't be much fun, if it were nev-er done.



Christ - mas is my fav - orite time of year. (clap clap) *Fine* Optional solo 1

I like the pre - sents, *Fine*

Fine



Optional solo 2

Optional Solo 3

I like the cards, I like de - cor - a - tions on my

The first system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note G4. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, and a left hand with a half note G3 and a half note F3.

Optional Solo 4

house and in my yard. I like ba - by Je - sus

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note D5, quarter notes E5, F5, and G5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the right hand, and a half note G3 and a half note F3 in the left hand.

born in the hay. Af - ter all that's

The third system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note D5, quarter notes E5, F5, and G5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the right hand, and a half note G3 and a half note F3 in the left hand.

D.S. al Fine

why we have a Christ - mas Day.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the right hand, and a half note G3 and a half note F3 in the left hand.

D.S. al Fine

D.S. al Fine