

Don't Forget Music

Music is the most influential art form in modern times.

No other art form affects us like music. Imagine a world without music...it would be a somber world indeed. It would actually be a world *without* one of God's creations, because God Made Music.

Years ago, as a result of budget shortfalls, public schools began to eliminate elementary music education. The results of that cut have been devastating. Most teenagers have never heard the stirring music of Beethoven, or Handel's "Messiah," or an opera, unless it happened to be part of a movie sound

track. Many teens are hooked on one musical style only, rock music, and they have no appreciation of anything else.

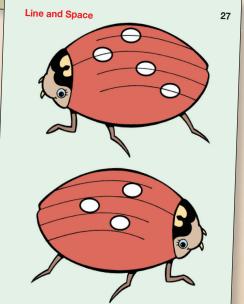
Sadly, Christian schools have mimicked public schools. Most Christian schools omit music education, or at best they incorporate as an afterthought a program of singing called "music time." Music time often has no definite goal or sequential skill development and therefore falls short of music education. If your school has "forgotten" music education, this booklet will help you understand the importance and components of a thorough music education program.

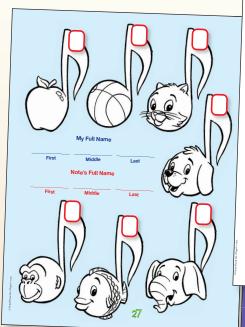
1. Music Notation

The first and foremost component of music education is the teaching of basic music notation.

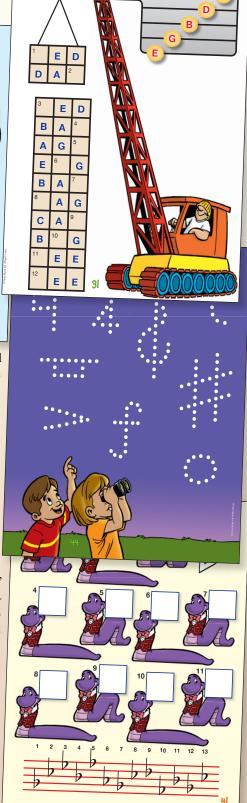
Music notation includes the notes, rests, and symbols that are the "language" of music. Children can enjoy music by listening to it, but greater enjoyment comes from *performing* music. Students are better able to perform music when they have mastered the musical "language" that enables them to perform competently. Music notation is actually very interesting to children, and they master it quickly when it is presented to them early and correctly. The *God Made*







Music series is written with the goal of presenting notation in an enjoyable format working from general to specific application. "General application to specific application" means that younger children master only general knowledge about music symbols, whereas older children master specifics. In the God Made Music 1 workbook (for first graders), Winifred, the worm, lies "flat" to teach students that the musical symbol called a "flat" lowers a pitch slightly. When Winifred is "raised up," he indicates that a musical symbol called a "sharp" raises a pitch slightly. That is a general application of the flat and sharp symbols. However, students using the God Made Music 5 workbook (for fifth graders) learn that a "flat" lowers a pitch exactly one-half step and that a "sharp" raises a pitch exactly one-half step. In addition, fifth graders learn the formation of a half step on the keyboard and learn how to



sing and recognize the interval of a half-step. By learning all of these concepts, students in the fifth grade learn the specific application of the flat and sharp symbols. By working from the general to the specific throughout the *God Made Music* series, students master music notation on a grade-appropriate level without becoming bored or overwhelmed.

In addition to working from general to specific, students must work in an "enjoyable format." That means workbook activities that children will be eager to complete and activities that will allow them easy mastery of music concepts. In *God Made Music 4*, students master note and rest names and values by playing a game called "Fire Alarm." The enjoyable game format makes it easy to master the note kinds and names.

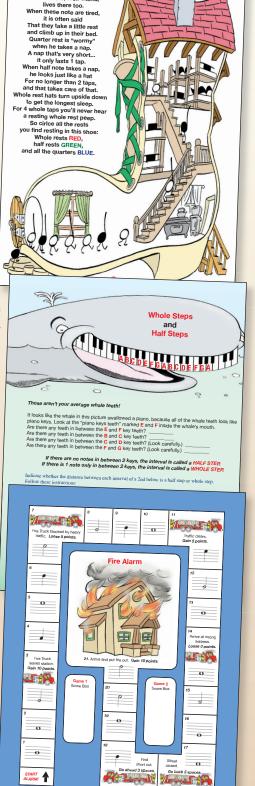
Music notation is the basic building block to performing and enjoying music and is the core of the *God Made Music* curriculum.

2. Music Reading

Teaching students music notation has one goal only...

teaching students to read music.

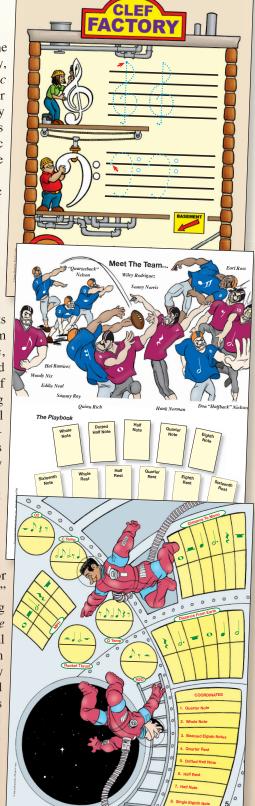
There is a misconception about "reading music." When we think of second grade children reading books, we automatically assume that second graders are reading on a second grade level. In other words, we assume a level of proficiency that is grade-related. Reading music is the same. Music reading is not an "eitheror" situation. Children who read music usually read music on a grade-related or age-related proficiency level, and for that reason, it is best



Whole note and half note live inside this shoe. Quarter note, their friend, to begin teaching music reading in the lower elementary grades. Obviously, first graders using *God Made Music I* once a week are not going to master music reading skills. However, if they begin learning music reading skills in grade 1, they should have a basic foundation for music reading by the time they reach upper grade levels.

How do you teach music reading? Teaching music notation does not guarantee that students will learn to read music. If you teach students all of the phonics rules needed for reading but never allow them to see a written sentence or read a story, they will never learn to read. Likewise, if you teach students music notation but never allow them to see those symbols in written music, your students will never learn to read music. In the logical progression of teaching a child to read music, seeing music notation in music is the natural "next step" after learning music notation. Therefore, if in your music class you are teaching students songs by rote exclusively, or if you are teaching them music notation without allowing them to see music, those students will never learn to read music.

In the God Made Music, we teach students a musical symbol or concept, then we allow them to "read" that symbol or concept by reading it in a piece of music. In God Made Music 1, first-graders learn a general interval concept that when written notes do not move up or down, they sound the "same" (as in the song "Old MacDonald"). When written notes "step" to the next line or space on the staff (as in "Butterfly"), they sound close together. When written notes



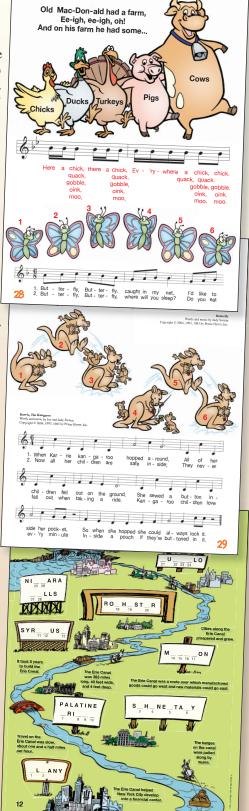
"leap" to other lines or spaces on the staff (as in "Karrie, The Kangaroo") they sound farther apart. As students progress through the grade levels of *God Made Music*, they advance from the general observation of intervals "stepping, skipping, and leaping" to more specific interval reading and recognition. While singing "In My Merry Oldsmobile," students locate and identify specific intervals of a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and octave to help them sharpen their music reading skills.

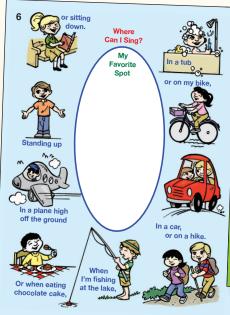
Children must see music in order to read music, and they must see music that demonstrates concepts that they are learning. God Made Music songs are not just randomly selected. They are carefully chosen to demonstrate concepts or composers being studied in a particular lesson. To master music reading, students must learn the music notation, then apply what they learned by reading written music. It is important for students to see music if they are to read music.

3. American Heritage and Fun Songs

Some Christian educators feel that they should teach only sacred songs... after all, this is a Christian school.

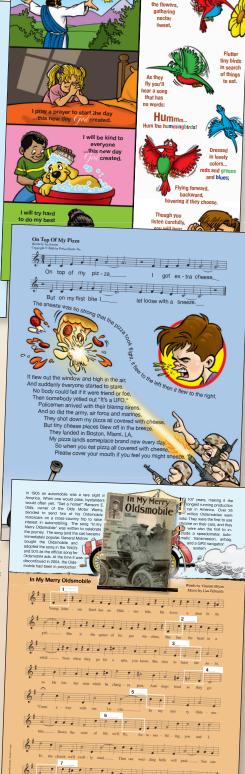
What kind of music should Christian school children be singing... classical, popular, sacred? Should a Christian school teach church history only, omitting American history because it is secular? America has a rich heritage of secular songs that give an insight into historical times. If you sing only sacred songs because "we are a Christian school," your





students are receiving an incomplete education. Every child should learn historical songs such as "I've Been Working On The Railroad" (sung by workers building levees in the South and later adapted as a railroad work song) and "The Erie Canal" (about the waterway that helped make New York City a financial center). Christian education should never be so "sacred" that it omits important segments of our history.

About two-thirds of God Made Music series songs are American heritage songs such as "In My Merry Oldsmobile," one of the first American songs used to promote a commercial product. The remaining third are "concept songs" such as "Butterfly" and "Karrie The Kangaroo." These concept songs have been written by the authors of the God Made Music series to demonstrate music theory concepts in a more definitive way than what was available in the American heritage



Flitting

song repertoire. The songs not only demonstrate concepts being learned, they also demonstrate sounds of instruments being studied.

Also included in *God Made Music* are fun songs such as "On Top Of My Pizza," and seasonal songs that students should know. For fun and variety, students in *God Made Music 6* are asked to name song titles from picture clues in the grade 6 Christmas lesson.

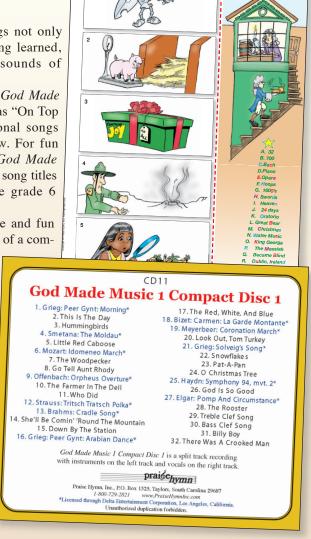
American heritage and fun songs are an important part of a com-

prehensive music education curriculum.

4. Not That "Long-Haired" Stuff

We chose the "shorthaired" stuff!

It's true, not all classical music is immediately appreciated or enjoyed. For that reason the *God Made Music* authors selected only classical music that will appeal to children. We've chosen the



Handel House

"short-haired," or best of the classics to include on our CD's. Throughout the nine-year *God Made Music* curriculum, students will study in detail a variety of interesting classical selections. As students learn to appreciate these selections, they will broaden their listening tastes and develop an appreciation for the highest quality of music in style, form, and content.

5. Composers and History of Music

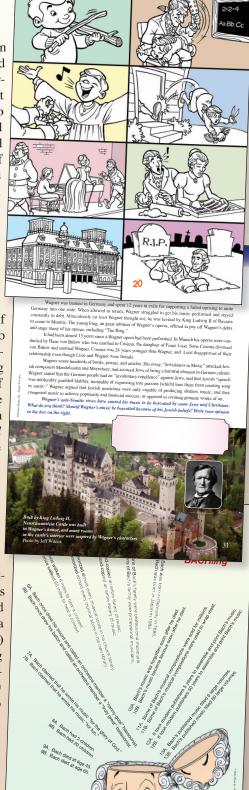
Composers were interestingly "different."

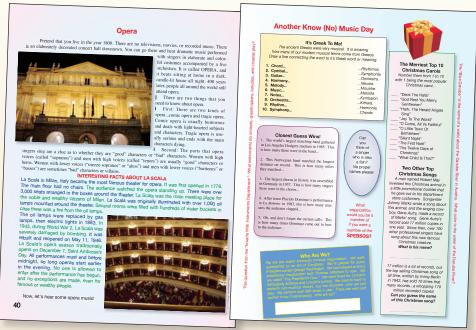
Some famous composers were...well, "socially different." For example, Beethoven would sometimes laugh in ridicule at audience members who were overwhelmed by his compositions. Should members of the audience talk or fail to be attentive during his performances, he would walk off the stage

and refuse to continue. He was often poorly dressed, boisterously loud, and impulsive. If displeased with the service or food at a restaurant, he might dump food on the waiter. He was so engrossed in his music that he would walk through the town singing and conducting, seemingly unaware of the other townspeople. Beethoven's actions give students an unusual insight into the temperament of this great composer.

God Made Music presents composers in an interesting manner so that students will remember facts about the composer. For example: Haydn was buried without his head... it was removed and examined to see if there was a clue as to why he was so musical. (His head was later reunited with the rest of him.) Mad King Ludwig built a castle in honor of Richard Wagner who is studied in the new God Made Classical Music. In the "Mind Bachling" lesson from God Made Music 5, students complete the 13 exercises before studying anything about Bach. First, they choose statements that they think are true about Bach. Then, from the teacher's manual, the teacher describes the life of Bach, and students discover which answers were correct.

Music history is also presented in a very informative way. Students learn interesting facts about opera and the La Scala opera house in Italy. In a lesson entitled "Another Know (No) Music Day," students learn surprising trivia about music, such as the largest chorus in history totaled 60,000 singers, and that opera tenor Placido Domingo once received 83 curtain calls to applause lasting 90 minutes! The study of composers' lives and





music history should be a very interesting and informative part of every music curriculum. The *God Made Music* series explores the interesting lives of composers and music history.

6. Instruments of the Orchestra

In the God Made Music series students study all of the major band and orchestral instruments, piano, organ, and guitar.

As students study the instruments, they listen to examples in classical music and song accompaniments on the compact discs. For example, in *God Made Music* 2, students study the largest (bassoon) and smallest (flute and piccolo) woodwind instruments, and they listen to examples of these instruments in the classical selection "Hall Of The Mountain King" from *The Peer Gynt Suites* by Grieg. They also study interesting facts about instruments, such as how Antonio Stradivari created the finest violins and cellos ever made, and how astoundingly valuable those instruments are today.

Students are encouraged to begin playing an instrument themselves beginning with the Flutophone in the third grade. The Flutophone is similar to a recorder, except the finger holes are raised to help third-graders completely cover the holes of the instrument, making it easier to play. Students move up to the baroque soprano recorder in *God Made Music 4*. These instruments give students a glimpse of what it would be like to play a musical instrument. In *God Made Music 6*, students are encouraged to join a band or take private music lessons. Performance is the ultimate musical experience emphasized in the *God Made Music* series, and what better way to enjoy music than to perform on one of the instruments that students have studied about in their workbooks. The *God*

Made Music series not only encourages instrumental performance but actually prepares students to perform by giving them a sound foundation of notation, music reading, and appreciation.

Conclusion

Your students deserve a music curriculum.

The God Made Music series has it all...music notation to help develop music reading skills, American heritage and fun songs, sacred songs, classical music appreciation, famous composer studies, music history, and instrument studies. Students who complete the God Made Music series have an excellent musical background to build on in performance and appreciation.

The God Made Music series is very easy to teach even if you have no background in music. Our "self-teaching" manuals are worded in the exact terminology that you would use to teach students. Praise Hymn, Inc. provides all of the recordings and aids that you need to teach this course.

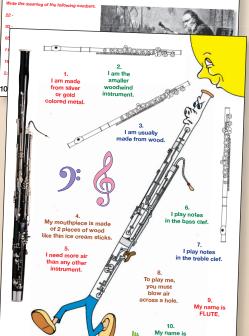
Music education is important to every student, and we hope you will make plans to include it as a part of your educational curriculum. For your students' sake, don't forget music education!

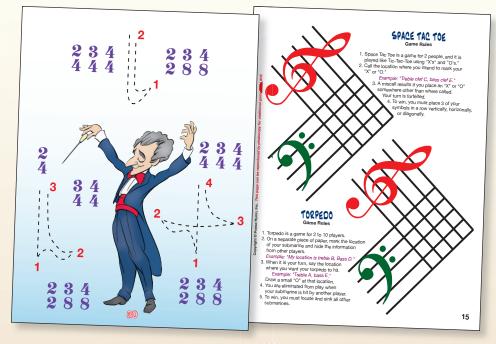
If you have any questions regarding the *God Made Music* series, please call us toll-free at 1-800-729-2821. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.



Antorio Stradiyari wag born in 1644. At age 22, he began making his first victims. Stradiyari lived to be 93 years old, and during his litetime, he made over 1,100 victims, hupts, Gultan, voides, and cellos, About 650 of his instruments are instruments are presided as among the first instruments were created. They are highly pritted and still played by professionals today. His instruments men from firmers. Farmour called Yo Yo Me come the "Daddo You's Charled" cello, and the great violonist (thank Perlaman owns the "Sadd 'visili of 1714, considered of the first of all Stradiy Charled" so that the "Sadd 'stadd 'visili of 1714, considered on the "Sadd 'stadd 'visili of 1714, considered to the "Sadd 'stadd 'stadd 'stadd 'stadd 'stadd 'stadd 's

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Our Offer

We know that as a school, you may have already invested great expense in music teacher's manuals and recordings. If you are interested in changing to our *God Made Music* curriculum, we will allow you to trade in *at no charge* your old manuals and recordings from other publishers for our new manuals and recordings. This offer is available for schools only, not home schools, and is subject to a minimum purchase of student books. Please call us for details.

We invite you to order "on approval" copies of *God Made Music* for your school to review. Of course, you are under no obligation to purchase anything ordered "on approval."

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