

Introduction

This Multi-grade Music Manual provides four years of cycle charts and weekly plans for small schools. It includes the following components:

1. *Spotlight on Music* (McGraw-Hill), the new North American Division music curriculum.
 - a. For multi-grade schools, it is recommended that Grade 3 and Grade 5 curriculum be purchased.
 - b. The grade 3 *Spotlight on Music* materials have been developed into four one-year cycles for grades 1-4, the lower level. The grade 5 *Spotlight on Music* materials have been developed into four one-year cycles for grades 5-8, the upper level.
 - c. In some cases, due to material that has been deemed inappropriate, *Spotlight* lessons have been adapted or omitted entirely.
2. *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*. Because of the importance of the spiritual component to our music curriculum, 40 hymn lessons have been developed: 20 for the lower level and 20 for the upper level. The plan is to use five hymn lessons each year.
3. *The Basics Foundational Learning*. Since incoming first graders or transfer students will have missed out on the foundational learning that precedes the third or fifth grade *Spotlight on Music* lessons, *The Basics* lessons have been developed to remedy this gap. *The Basics* lessons may also be used each year as a review even if there are no new students.
4. *Playing the Recorder*. Utilizing the recorder as a performing instrument is a time-honored tradition for third and fourth graders that may easily be extended to fifth grade and above, especially when there is no string or band program in the school. The recorder is an inexpensive instrument that provides opportunity for students to put into practice their musical literacy skills as well as to bring musical pleasure. It is also an excellent starter instrument for students who may have the opportunity to join band in the fifth grade.
 - a. Since it is more difficult for first and second grade students to handle the physical aspects of playing the instrument, the lower level Recorder Lessons have been built into the third quarter of each yearly cycle (after Christmas). The nine-week focus will begin with two interim BASICS lessons to refresh their music literacy skills. During the weeks that follow they will acquire an appropriate degree of proficiency.
 - b. Upper level students will review their recorder skills in four lessons during the first quarter of each cycle, then work to improve the quality of their playing during the third quarter.
 - c. The *Playing the Recorder* Supplementary Materials are used with the *Spotlight on Music* recorder lessons or in place of *Spotlight on Music* recorder lessons rather than to continue repeating the same songs. In any given week, more or less of the supplementary songs may be used depending on the skill of the students and the time available.
5. *Seasonal Programs*. An important component of the music curriculum in our schools is preparing and presenting programs for constituent churches, parents, friends, and the community. Therefore, program preparation has been built into the Weekly Plans. Adjustments in the lessons may be made according to when the programs are planned and how much time is needed to prepare the program.

The supplementary materials may be used for any size school whether or not the school utilizes the *Spotlight on Music* curriculum.