

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 10 years. Mini-plays are designed for a classroom teacher who wants to dramatise 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 personalise 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, a tape is available with vocals on one side and accompaniments only on the other. 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. Denise Gagne, author

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Themes and Variations

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Teacher Notes:

1. Christmas is my Favorite Time of the Year

Costumes: everyday clothes

This would make a good opener for your concert. This works well with K-3 students.

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 the 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:

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.

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 their mine mine mine (X X X)

Chorus twice:

3. Time to 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 over (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-3 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.

Elf 1: Get to work! It's time to load the toys on the sleigh

Elf 2: Look at all this neat stuff.

Elf 3: They didn't have this many toys when I was a kid. (should look old)

Elf 4: Kids these days. They're all spoiled.

Time To Pack the Sleigh:

Hey there elves time to pack the sleigh It's off in the sky before Christmas day
We have toys and games and puzzles too, all kinds of gifts for grownups too!

Ghetto blasters walk mans Barbie dolls, Spaceships laser guns that's not all
Pinball hockey games lego, construx, Video radio all kinds of stuff.
Rattles for the babies, perfume for your Mom socks for Dad it's fun fun fun
Dance break

Dump trucks, fire trucks, racing cars, power rangers toy guitars
Keyboards pianos noisy drums, lots of toys they're fun fun fun
Rattles for the babies, perfume for your Mom socks for Dad it's fun fun fun

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.) Santa should be in a Santa suit.

This song works well with Grade 2-4 students.

Santa: (dubiously) you're sure this is going to work?

Tech 1: This is the newest Mac on the market Santa.

Tech 2: It has 200 Meg of Ram

Santa: Ram??? You mean there are sheep in it?

Tech 3: That means memory Santa.

Tech 4: We have it hooked up to every light bulb in the entire world.

Tech 5: Just type in a name and the computer will give you a readout on their behaviour for the past 12 months.

Santa: Let's try it out.....Mark Jones (Type in the principals name sound effects while computer prints it out. Santa reads the printout)

This one doesn't look too promising - plays tricks on teachers, plays golf instead of mowing the lawn..... I think this computer will really help us make our Christmas lists.

Santa's Computer:

Santa's got a new computer helping Santa make his list.
All the boys and girls are on his data base so no one's missed.
Santa peeks through light bulbs hooked up to his terminal.
He knows who's good he knows who's bad he knows them one and all
Santa's got a new computer knows each toy in all the world.
Knows which one that you have asked for, every boy and every girl.

If you're bad he'll know it and then he'll bring you some rocks
But if you're good he'll try to bring you just the gift you want
Santa's got a new computer helping Santa make his list.
All the boys and girls are on his data base so no one's missed.

5. Christmas Spirit

Costume: Kids in everyday clothes - an older lady in a rocking chair off to one side of the stage.

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.

Child 1: When I was doing my papers I noticed that the lady in the blue house doesn't have any Christmas decorations up at all.

Child 2: But it's Christmas Eve.

Child 3: She must be really lonely. This is her first Christmas alone.

Child 4: We should do something for her

Child 5: Let's take her a tree and some presents.

Go offstage and come back with a decorated tree and gifts. They take them to the lady and sing from there.

Christmas Spirit:

Christmas spirit happens in many kinds of ways, Every time you help someone or brighten up their day.
You can make it happen wherever you may be Give the gift of Christmas spirit underneath your tree.

Christmas spirit's something you can't buy in a store Once you've had a little bit you're sure to want some
more
You can make it happen where ever you may be Give the gift of Christmas spirit underneath your tree

Christmas spirit happens long after Christmas day Anytime somebody's nice to you in any way
You can make it happen where ever you may be. Give the gift of Christmas spirit underneath your tree.

6. Presents

Costume ideas: Everyday clothes for kids. No props are needed, but the children with speaking parts could carry shopping bags. This song works well with Grade 2-6 students.

Child 1: I want to get something for my Dad for Christmas but I've only got (count the change).....
\$4.21 left. How about loaning me some money?

Child 2: Hasn't anyone ever told you that "it's not the gift, but the thought that counts".

Child 1: Just what kind of thought can I buy for \$4.21?

Child 2: Buy him his favorite magazine and offer to shovel the sidewalks for him so he can read it.

Child 1: Cool - he'll like that!

Presents:

Presents, for Christmas can mean so much to me.
Tell me, that someone is thinking of me.
Doesn't have to be a big one, doesn't have to cost a lot
Something chosen for another, not the gift but just the thought.

Presents, for Christmas, can mean so much to me

Tell me, that someone is thinking of me.
Could be one you've made yourself, maybe just a special poem.
Could be time you spend together with someone who's all alone.

Presents, for Christmas can mean so much to me.
Tell me, that someone is thinking of me.
Doesn't have to be a big one, doesn't have to cost a lot
Something chosen for another, not the gift but just the thought.

7. The Road to Bethlehem

The next 3 songs could be used to present a pageant depicting the Christmas story. Each song will be equally effective on it's own. The Road to Bethlehem has an optional second part. As a unison song, it will work well with grade 2-6. As a two part, it could be used in middle school.

Costume Ideas: **Mary:** a simple shift with a shawl over her head and shoulders. **Joseph:** A plain, burlap or unbleached cotton tunic over trousers. A blanket over his shoulders.

Mary and Joseph walk slowly around and off the stage as the song is sung.

Narrator: About this time Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the nation. Everyone was required to return to his ancestral home for this registration. And because Joseph was a member of the royal line, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea journeying there from Nazareth. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time.

The Road to Bethlehem:

Walking along to the town they call Bethlehem, hoping our journey soon will be done
Dusty and tired we must travel onward, hoping we're there before setting sun

Hoping, praying, trusting in the Lord. Knowing that the child is come to save the world.

None of the inns have a place for the travellers, "What shall we do now? Where shall we go?
Please sir we beg you, give us the stable, How much it means sir, you'll never know.

Hoping, praying, trusting in the Lord. Knowing that the child is come to save the world.

Sorry - we can't give you all the songs, or no one would buy the collection! (Remember - public performance rights are only given to the school when the guide is purchased)

The teacher guide also includes:

- * choreography suggestions*
- * costume ideas*
- * piano/vocal scores (Piano accompaniments are interesting, but not too difficult.)*
- * script tying all the selections together in one theme "Christmas is our Favorite Time of Year"*

The CD for this play is recorded with a full performance, and then with accompaniments only. The accompaniments are fully orchestrated. (not just piano)