

SINGING

ONE OF GOD'S BEST GIFTS TO MAN

THE NEED FOR MUSICAL LITERACY

We listen with pleasure as a very young child struggles to sound out words, laboring over each syllable, perhaps skipping the long words. He or she is just starting the journey from ignorance to knowledge, from confusion to clarity. Those baffling symbols will soon be so familiar that no thought is required to recognize them.

Bible stories, adventure stories, poetry, history, science, and much, much more—what a wonderful world opens to a new reader! Once mastered, those strange symbols can take a child back into the past, through equatorial jungles, inside castles and caves and courtrooms, even into the mind of God.

Learning to read music is roughly parallel to learning to read words. An inexplicable set of strange shapes gradually becomes a familiar pattern linked to familiar sounds. The symbol set is similar in size, but the combinations are typically

simpler than English language constructions. Nearly everyone can learn to read music—no special gift required!

Like English literacy, musical literacy is not a prerequisite for a successful life. But acquiring it opens a wonderful panorama of enjoyment and outreach, a lifetime of blessing for the individual, the church, and the world around us.

The world today is a world of consumers. A few people sing and the rest of the world listens,

not to the singers, but to electronic sounds on electronic devices. Widespread sharing of recorded music has strengthened this tendency among Christians. The church today needs more singers, not more listeners!

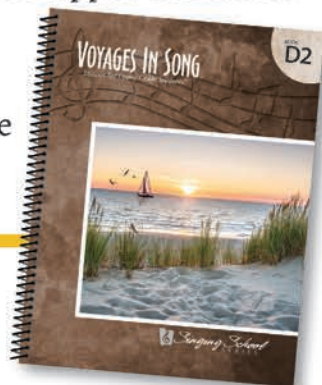
SINGING IS GOOD FOR US

EMOTIONALLY. Singing promotes healthy emotions. It brings comfort to the sad. It provides an outlet for joy. Because songs are easily remembered, they can provide a reservoir of guidance and cheer to be tapped as needed.

SPIRITUALLY. Singing is a form of worship that the church has practiced since the crossing of the



TURN THE PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SINGING SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION COURSE.



Red Sea. Praising God is an essential part of Christian living, and singing is one of the best ways to praise Him. It is one of our links to Heaven.

PHYSICALLY. Singing is excellent physical exercise. It strengthens the lungs, the diaphragm, and the body's core muscle system. It helps children develop a sense of rhythm, an essential component of many motor skills. Singing is scientifically proven to boost the body's immune system.

SOCIALLY. Singing is (or should be!) a non-competitive group activity. Group singing promotes working together and listening to each other. It encourages participation and cooperation by everyone in the group. People who sing together have been proven to synchronize their heart beats.

ACADEMICALLY. Lab tests have shown that singing enhances mental alertness and increases learning capacity.

THE CHURCH TODAY NEEDS MORE SINGERS, NOT MORE WHATSAPP LISTENERS.



SINGING SCHOOL CURRICULUM

TO TEACH MANY STUDENTS TO SING WELL, RATHER THAN A FEW TO EXCEL.

This is the goal of the Singing School curriculum by Guiding Light Publishers. Designed to be taught in multi-grade classrooms, the curriculum is an eight or nine-year course, divided into four groups:

- Paths to Singing (grades 1–2)
- Discoveries in Song (grades 3–4)
- Adventures in Song (grades 5–6)
- Voyages in Song (grades 7–9)

Each group has two workbooks that can be taught in alternate years, one focused on rhythm, the other on harmony. It makes no difference which of the two is taught first.

While a specifically dedicated music teacher will probably give the best results, the series is also designed to be taught by homeroom teachers with a minimum of personal musical skills.

There is a workbook for each student. The

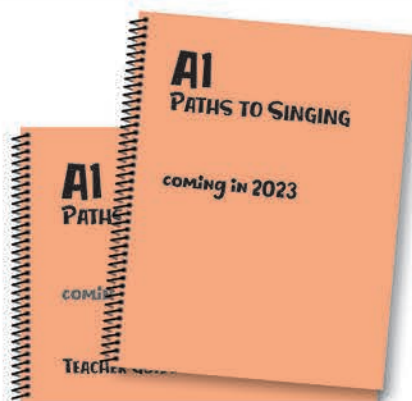
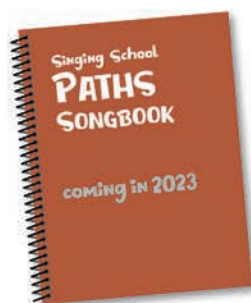
teacher's manual includes optional full scripting for each lesson. Flash cards and other supplementary items are included. The series is colorful, designed to catch and hold the students' interest.

A spiral bound songbook is provided for each group. These songbooks are also available in a PDF format for use with a projector.

Your youth group might enjoy these too!

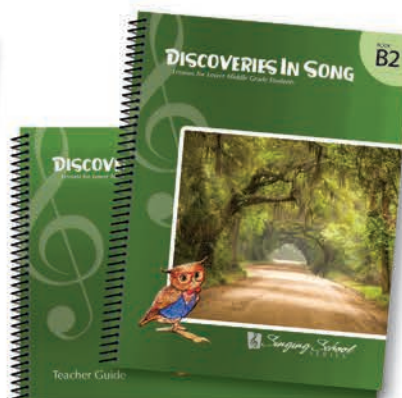
O SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG; SING UNTO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH. SING UNTO THE LORD, BLESS HIS NAME; SHEW FORTH HIS SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY. DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE HEATHEN, HIS WONDERS AMONG ALL PEOPLE. PSALM 96:1-3

GRADES 1-2

**A SERIES**
Flashcard Packet

Musical Go Fish
Scale Trill Cars
Voice Exploring Cards
coming in 2023

GRADES 3-4



GRADES 5-6



In
Development

GRADES 7-9



EVERYONE
CAN SING
Helping the
Challenged Singer

In Development

SAMPLE PAGES FROM THE B1 & D2 SINGING SCHOOL BOOKS

Review Exercise

Write **W** under the whole rests, **H** under the half rests, **Q** under the quarter rests, **E** under the eighth rests, and **S** under the sixteenth rests.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20



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B1 Discoveries in Song



If you feel grumpy or ill - SING! Singing cheers us up and helps our bodies fight off disease and bad moods - just like these golden musical arrows are driving away the dark cloud.

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LESSON CONCEPT
RI OR ME: HALF-STEP
BETWEEN RE & MI

Many years ago a network of trade developed, connecting the parts of Asia to the countries of Europe. These were called Spice Routes because they were used to transport spices. The five half steps made with accidentals are like spices - they add extra flavor to music and enhance the message of a song.

God's Children Are Gathering Home

1. From a land of sad good-byes where the tears be - dim - our eyes,
2. From a land where sin is rife, where we meet with bit - ter strife,

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Ever the Same

1. Je - sus, Re - deem - er, mar - vel - ous Name, Liv - ing and lov - ing,
2. God of cre - a - tion, Rat - er on high, Sav - ior of sin - ners,
3. As in past ag - es, so to the end, "Faith - ful that grows true."

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D2 • Voyages in Song

FIGURE 1.8A

DO DO RE RI MI RE DO

In the song, *In His Presence*, find and circle the ME made with a flat.

In His Presence

1. You know that I have a God, and He is ev - er - y - where,
2. You know that I have a God, and He knows ev - er - y place,
3. You know that I have a God, He knows what - ev - er I need.

LESSON SUMMARY

Like spices added to food dishes, a sprinkling of accidentals adds extra flavour to many songs.

The half step between RE and MI is called RI (ree) when it is a raised RE.

The half step between RE and MI is called ME (may) when it is a lowered MI.

A RI is created by using a sharp on a standard RE degree, a natural on a flatted RE degree, or a double sharp on a sharped RE degree.

A ME is created by using a flat on a standard MI degree, a natural on a sharped MI degree or a double flat on a flatted MI degree.

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FIGURE 1.8B

MI MI MI ME MI MI MI DO

FIGURE 1.8C

MI MI MI ME MI MI MI DO

FIGURE 1.8D

MI MI MI ME MI MI MI DO

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Your teacher will lead you in singing scale practice. Use the diatonic scale with RI/ME added in.

Singing School

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