

PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT!



**SONGS, ACTIVITIES, AND GAMES
FOR HIGH-FLYING CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**

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WHAT'S ON MY CD?

- Teaching resources and clip art
- Reproducible singer's scores
- Reproducible lyric sheets
- Reproducible student instrument scores
- Demonstration tracks
- Accompaniment tracks

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PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT

As children's choir directors, we are always searching for new songs, games, and classroom strategies that make learning fun and engaging. Our goal is to actively involve children in learning, and make choir time so enjoyable they can hardly wait to fly through the door each week.

In Praise Takes Flight (PTF), you will find teaching activities, choir games, action songs, and classroom strategies used by veteran choir directors and clinicians. You will find instant success on every page, through tried and proven activities offered in a fresh, appealing new format. You will also find songs and anthems to apply the concepts presented throughout the book.

PTF is a "how to" manual for high-flying children's choirs. The children are the junior pilots: the Puddle Jumpers, the Barn Stormers, the Flying Angels. You are the flight instructor. In this book are tools and teaching tips for your flight bag, along with clever songs to help you practice and present them.

We pray this book will help you make children's choir one of the most joyful, productive ministries in your church, and that together with your children, your *praise takes flight!*

Betsy Henderson

Kimberly Ingram

**Dedicated in loving memory to
Sarah Kelsey Day
1925-2008**



When Sarah Kelsey Day was teaching music to children, her light shone so brightly, it illuminated all others around her. In her quiet, unassuming way, Sarah was a role-model and mentor to young co-workers. To children, she was a master teacher, making music the tool for worshipful praise and great joy. She nurtured many generations of young singers in music and in faith.

For those of us who knew and loved her, we could always hear Sarah's song as we went about our task of reaching out to children. Her voice and her smile are recalled continually as we remember the talents and encouragement she shared. We are still sharing her song today.



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Let's go!





Flight School

The activities in this book are targeted to three different ages or skill levels.



PUDDLE JUMPERS

When you see Puddle Jumpers, look for teaching strategies and songs designed for younger ages, or for introducing a song or activity for the first time.

BARN STORMERS

When you see Barnstormers, look for songs and strategies appropriate for middle elementary or more-confident singers.



FLYING ANGELS

Flying Angels indicate your most advanced activities and songs. Use them for your older, more-experienced children who are confident in their skills and ready to SOAR!

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and
the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

1. FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS!



Beginnings...

A new choir year... the start of class... the opening of rehearsal... all of these first moments are important as we learn to fly in formation as a choir. *Fasten Your Seatbelts* has fun, creative activities that will help you prepare your children for a successful flight. Look in this section for –

- NAME GAMES
- WARM UPS
- "PRE-FLIGHT" ACTIVITIES



Fasten your seatbelts – and get ready for take-off!

*For great is your love, higher than the heavens!
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies!*

Psalm 57:10



CD #1

NAME ATTACK

Children love name games, especially at the beginning of the year as they are getting to know one another. This simple, rhythmic circle game will help every child feel welcome.

$\frac{4}{4}$

name at-tack!	name at-tack!	say it loud and clear!	Z
Yours	is the name	we want to hear!	Z
take one step forward,	then take one step back.		Z
tell us your name;	it's a name at-tack!		Z

PREVIEW

Flight Instructor's Notebook

The lines represent beats in a measure.

- | A single line represents a quarter note (ta).
- ┌ Two lines connected by a top bar represent 8th notes (ti-ti).
- ↑ A line with a tail represents a single 8th note.
- 7 A slanted line with a curl represents an 8th rest.
- Z A Z represents a quarter rest.

* PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT *

Hello!



PUDDLE JUMPERS

- Echo speak the rhyme in 2-measure phrases, and then chant the rhyme together until children feel secure.
- Stand together in a circle and extend the left fists toward the center of the circle.
- Assign one child to walk around the inside of the circle tapping each extended fist in time with the rhyme's steady beat.
- Instruct the child who is tapped on the final beat of the rhyme to say his/her first name, and have the group repeat the name.
- Repeat the game with the same leader, or have the "tapped" child assume the role of leader.
- Continue game until all children have had a turn saying their name.

NAME GAMES

In Luke 19, Jesus entered Jericho and saw a man in a tree. He called out, "Zacchaeus!" Jesus knew the tax collector by name! Though the people in town may have said "Zacchaeus" in a mean tone, Jesus said it with perfect welcome, adding, "I must stay at your house today!" Share this Bible story with your children as you play a name game at the beginning of the year. Remind them that Jesus knows them by name, and loves them - just the way they are!



CD #2

My name is...



YOUR SPECIAL NAME

This name game works well for larger groups. Start the first two or three classes of the year with this game so that everyone hears his/her name. See Barnstormers for additional game options.

(Volunteer steps forward and poses while choir recites)

$\frac{4}{4}$	Look at you	standing there!	What a smile I	do de-clare!
	what	special name	goes	with that face?
	tell us	please then	pick up	the pace!

(Spoken solo) My name is _____.

(Group echo) His/her name is _____.

* PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT *



PUDDLE JUMPERS

- Echo speak the rhyme in short phrases while performing a patsch on beat 1 and a clap on beat 3.
- Choose a volunteer to stand in front of the group and speak the solo response at the end of the rhyme.
- Allow the volunteer to select the next child to stand in the front, and increase the tempo of the rhyme with each repetition.
- Continue the game until all children have spoken the solo response. (For large groups, allow several children to volunteer each time.)

BARN STORMERS

- Change “pick up the pace” to “slow down the pace,” trying at least one round in a slow-motion tempo.
- Introduce tempo terms such as *adagio*, *andante*, *allegro*, and *accelerando*, identifying these as they apply to the activity.



I'M GONNA SING!

Traditional Spiritual
Adapted and arr. by Kimberly Ingram and Joe Milton

Lively (♩ = 140)

mf

Oh, I'm gon-na sing, gon-na sing, gon-na sing, gon-na
I'm gon-na clap, gon-na clap, gon-na clap, gon-na
I'm gon-na march, gon-na march, gon-na march, gon-na

Piano *mf*

5

sing all a-long my way! Oh, I'm gon-na sing, gon-na sing, gon-na sing, gon-na
clap all a-long my way! Oh, I'm gon-na clap, gon-na clap, gon-na clap, gon-na
march all a-long my way! Oh, I'm gon-na march, gon-na march, gon-na march, gon-na

9

sing all a-long my way! My voice sings with praise for my
clap all a-long my way! My hands clap with praise for my
march all a-long my way! My feet march with praise for my

CD #12
ACC #13

GOLDEN RULES

*Younger elementary singers will enjoy this short anthem, especially the rhythmic, whispered sections.
Make sure to share the related Scripture verses for each of the "Golden Rules."*

Matthew 7:12
Matthew 22:39
Matthew 28:19-20

Betsy Henderson/Kimberly Ingram
arr. by Joe Milton

Lightly, like raindrops (♩ = 90) *mp*

Do, do, do to oth-ers as you would have them

8
do to you. Do, do, do to oth-ers as you would have them do (*It's the rule!*) to (*It's the rule!*)

14
you! (*It's the Gold-en Rule!*) Love, love, love the Lord God with all your heart and soul and mind.

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CD #14
ACC #15

ENTIRELY RELIABLE ROCK

Includes refrain from *The Solid Rock*
Words by Edward Mote, Melody by William B. Bradbury

Kimberly Ingram, Joe Milton
Arr. by Joe Milton

$\text{♩} = 85$

mf

mf

5

mf

9

Chord progression: Eb Eb/G Ab A° Bb Eb Eb/G Ab Ab/Bb

Chord progression: Eb Eb/G Ab F/A Eb/Bb Bb

Chord progression: Eb Eb/G Ab Eb/Bb Bb

Lyrics: On the sand, on the sand, stood the house of a fool-ish man. On the sand, on the sand, he built a house so tall and grand. With

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13

Cm⁷

D^b

A^b

F/A

walls and cab' - nets and win-dows and doors, a great, tall ceil-ing and shi-ny wood floors, on the

17

E^b/B^b

B⁺

Cm⁷

Cm/F

A^b/B^b

E^b

sand, on the sand, the un - re - li - a - ble sand. And a

22

Cm

Gm

Cm

Gm

strong, cold wind start-ed to blow, and the rains came flood-ing down! — The

PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT



BODY BEATS



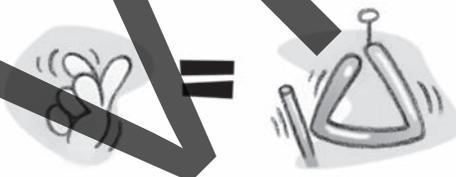
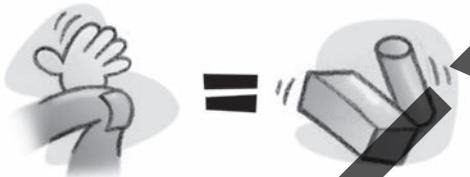
- Practice body percussion until children have memorized the words, rhythm, and motions.
- Have children perform JUST THE BODY PERCUSSION without saying the words. This puts the song or verse into the inner hearing (see In Flight Insight).
- Replace the body percussion with unpitched rhythm instruments such as hand drums, tambourines, wood blocks, and triangles. Let children experience inner hearing by performing the song or verse with instruments only.

replace...

with...

replace...

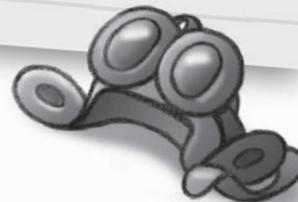
with...



Flight Instructor's Notebook

THE MAGIC OF INNER HEARING

The most wonderful thing about body percussion is putting a song or verse into the inner hearing (audiation). When children perform the body percussion without speaking, they are actually hearing the words in their mind as they stomp, patsch, clap, and snap. Inner hearing helps children hear the words in their minds - and write them on their hearts.





CD #38
ACC #39

PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT!

*Here is a song that lets your children play a simple version of the cups game.
The 3-beat "hold" in this version of Cups makes the game easier for children - and teachers!*

Clap
(Clap Hands)

Clap
(Clap Hands)

Hal - le - lu - jah
(Tap R.H. Floor) (Tap L.H. Floor) (Tap R.H. Floor) (Tap L.H. Floor)

Clap
(Clap Hands)

Up
(Lift Cup)

Down!
(Tap Cup Down)

Clap
(Clap Hands)

Clap and
(Clap Hands) (Grab Cup)

Praise
(Tap Cup on Floor to Left)

Him
(Pass Cup Right)

all
(Hold hands in Air)
OR Adv:
Tap L.H. Floor

day
(Hold hands in Air)
OR Adv:
Tap L.H. Floor

long!
(Hold hands in Air)
OR Adv:
Tap R.H. Top of New Cup

* PRAISE TAKES FLIGHT *



PUDDLE JUMPERS

- Give your youngest fliers a simple introduction to cups. Have them sit in a circle. They clap twice, pat the floor in front of them once, and pat the floor to their right once, as if passing an item. Practice the motion on the steady beat until the group is confident: Clap, Clap, Pat, Pass.
- Introduce 2-3 bean bags or cups into the circle, letting the students pass these (practicing the pattern with empty hands when they don't have an item). Introduce more cups or bean bags as children grow in confidence, until there is one item for each child.



BARN STORMERS



- Slowly teach the modified cups routine, increasing tempo gradually. Then try it with the song! Use the words to help remember the steps.
- **STEP 1:** Children clap twice, tap the floor four times, clap once, and lift the cup up and down.

(To help remember the motions, chant:
Clap, Clap, Hal-le-lu-jah, Clap, Up, Down!)

- **STEP 2:** Children clap twice, grab the cup, tap left and then pass it, and hold hands up in air, resting for the final three beats ("all day long").

(To help remember the motions, chant:
(Clap, Clap, and Praise Him! All Day Long!)

- **STEP 3:** Once children can successfully pass the cups, they can substitute this rhythm for the three-beat hold: Have them tap the floor twice with their left hand and tap the top of the cup with their right hand on "all day long."

"Praise Takes Flight" and every song in this collection has been arranged, recorded, and produced by Joe Milton, a GMA Dove-nominated composer and owner of JoMusik Studios. Joe has led a distinguished career as a musician, artist, songwriter, and music producer. His original music can be heard on television shows such as Desperate Housewives, Malcolm in the Middle, and American Family. His contributions to Christian Children's Music include "What's Up, Zak?" (a GMA Dove Finalist), Land of the Lost and Found (J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice Selection), and Breaking News! Baby Born in Bethlehem.

CUPS