

Seasons and Holidays

Michael's Bio and Introduction:

Michael Nichols lives in Sylva, North Carolina, where he directs church music and serves as an adjunct faculty member of Western Carolina University. He received his B.S. and M.M.E. degrees from Western Carolina and has completed all levels of Orff Certification through WCU and the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. Now retired, he taught elementary music in and around Sylva for 30 years. Michael is the recorder instructor for Orff Schulwerk levels courses at Western Carolina University and James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is a presenter at Orff workshops and conferences throughout the United States.

During my years of teaching, I composed songs of the seasons and holidays to present musical concepts. With selections for younger grades, ostinati and bordun accompaniments are used, while more advanced pieces include harmonic changes. Some songs have suggestions for performance, movement, and improvisation. My students and colleagues alike have used these pieces with great success, enjoying the challenge while finding them interesting and fulfilling.

Michael R. Nichols

Editor, Layout, and Graphic Design - Brent M. Holl
Associate Editors - Karen F. Holl and Robert A. Amchin
Cover Design by Jerry Nichols

© 2006 Michael R. Nichols. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

Printed and distributed by Beatin' Path Publications, Ltd.
302 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812

Contents

Fall	<i>Fall</i>	4
	<i>Falling Leaves</i>	5
Halloween	Veiny Vampire	6
	Scary Little Song	8
Thanksgiving	<i>Scratch and Peck</i>	10
	<i>Indian Drums</i>	11
	<i>Thanksgiving Day Round</i>	12
Christmas	<i>O Holy Christmas Morning</i>	13
	<i>Sound All the Christmas Bells</i>	14
	<i>Follow the Star</i>	16
New Year's Day	<i>Beginning</i>	18
	<i>New Year Bells</i>	20
Winter	JANUARY ROUND	21
	WHERE IS THE SNOW?	22
	SNOW?	23
	MAN, IT'S GOLD	24
	LET IT SNOW	26
Valentine's Day	<i>Love</i>	27
	<i>Love Me, Do</i>	28
	<i>Take Me to the East</i>	30
St. Patrick's Day	<i>Shamrock</i>	31
	<i>Pretty Green Shamrocks</i>	32
Spring	<i>Little Bunny</i>	33
	<i>Easter Song</i>	34
	<i>Sing a Song of Spring</i>	35
	<i>Spring Arrives</i>	36
	<i>It's Raining</i>	37
	<i>April Showers Bring May Flowers</i>	38
	<i>Spring Is Past</i>	39

Fall

Michael R. Nichols

SG
AG

Cool - er wea - ther tells us that it's fall.
Leaves are tur - ning, reds and yel - lows too!

BM
CBX

Suggestions:

Help the students add a B Section. List eight trees whose leaves change color and speak the list through twice. One possibility might be: Maple, Sassafras, Poplar, Ash, Dogwood, Sourwood, Mulberry, Oak.

Add a C Section by using different unpitched percussion instruments to play each tree name.

SG
AG

I like au - tumn, pret - tiest time of all!
We can name them in rhy - thm just for you.

BX
B
CB

Please

Falling Leaves

Set up instruments in F pentatonic (FGA CD) for glissandos.

Michael R. Nichols

Don't

Yel - low, or - ange, red and brown, leaves are fall - ing all a - round.

SG
AG
SM
AM
BX

Suggestion:

Double the Bass Xylophone part on the Timpani or Bass Bars.

Fa - ing fast, ram - ing low, spin - ning spin - ning as they go.

SG
AG
SM
AM
BX

Veiny Vampire

(4-part round)

Michael R. Nichols

Unpitched Percussion

UP

temple blocks

slide whistle

cabasa

vibraslap

1

Vei - ny Vam - pire, where can he be? He

may be hid - ing in your chim - ney.

3

Look o - ver here! Look o - ver there! He's

wait - ing to give you a scare!

Suggestions:

Movement: The four groups may face each other in a box shape.

Measures 1 - 2: Take 4 steps forward (teeth bared, hold index finger at upper lip level with fingers bent at joints and pointed downward to represent fangs).

Measures 3 - 4: Cross arms and gradually extend upward above head into a chimney shape. Turn to the left (counterclockwise) 4 steps (above rhythm).

Measures 5 - 6: Hold left hand, palm down, over eyes as you lean to the left, left knee bent (four beats); repeat with right hand, right knee bent leaning right (four beats).

Measures 7 - 8: Take 6 small (quarter note) steps backward, ending with feet together, arms slowly pulling in toward chest until beat 7, when arms suddenly extend upward and outward (on the word "scare") into a "Y" position (on last two beats of phrase).

Movement may be performed in canon, with or without singing.

Scary Little Song Don't

Michael R. Nichols

Temple Blocks

Vibraslap

BX BM

CBX

TB

VS

BX BM

CBX

Lis - ten to my spook - y lit - tle sto - ry. Lis - ten to my

sca - ry lit - tle song. It will make you shiv - er just to lis - ten,

Copy!

JANUARY ROUND

Michael R. Nichols

Preview Only!

1 2
SR Jan - u - ar - y wea - ther, do you think it's gon - na
AX
BX

Suggest on:

The round may be ended by putting a fermata on the first notes of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7, or by phasing out the voices allowing instruments to continue, then ending on the first notes of measures 1, 3, 5, or 7.

Please

3 4
SR snow? Yes, sir, yes, sir, I cer - tain - ly hope so!
AX
BX

WHERE IS THE SNOW?

Michael R. Nichols

Don't

Where is the snow we're sup-posed to have? Af - ter all, it's Jan - u - ar - y.
Triangle
BX
BM

May - be it's hid - ing in - side the clouds wait - ing for Feb - ru - a - ry!
SG
AG
TR
BX
BM

Copy!