

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

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