

Marimba Music for Little Kids

By Jon Madin

Songs and easy
pieces with music
for diatonic marimbas,
xylophones and
other instruments

 Includes
music CD

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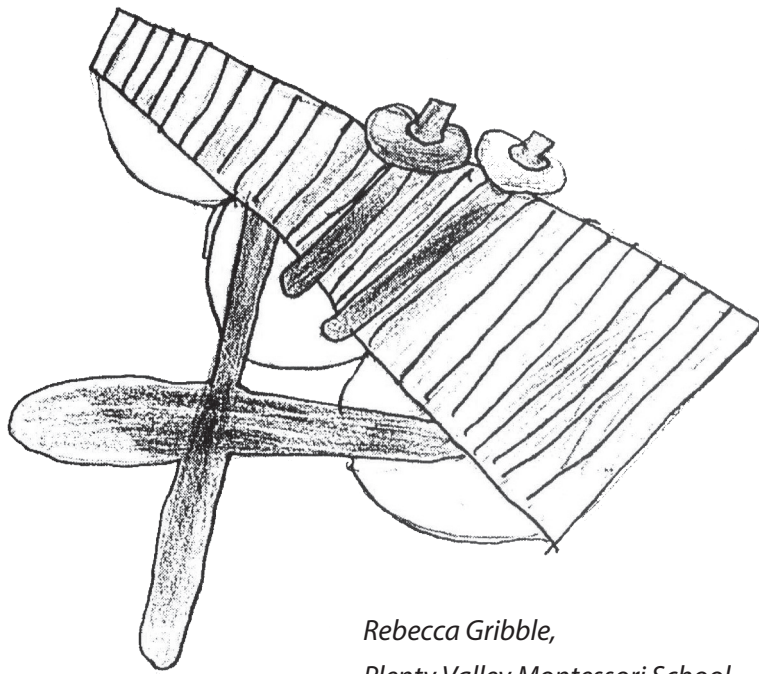
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Contents

5	Contents
6	Introduction
7	Teaching Hints and Warm-ups
8	Can You Click Your Tongue?
10	Monday's Child
12	The Cabbage Cafe
14	Scooby Dooby Doo
16	The Annual Thing
18	Pudding on the Hill
20	Hippopotamus
22	Jump Down Turn Around / Shortnin' Bread
24	I Wanna CCC
26	Click Sticks
28	Click and Spin
30	The White Flower
32	If You're Happy and You Know It
34	Gina
36	99 O'Clock
37	I Wonder
40	Zena and Zac
44	Antigravity



*Rebecca Gribble,
Plenty Valley Montessori School*

Introduction



Kids, marimbas and hats, Shepparton.

Marimba Music for Little Kids

is a collection of songs with simple tuned percussion parts associated with them.

For the youngest children - 5 or 6 year olds - the songs involve lots of actions and only a few specific notes. If the children don't always find the 'correct' note, it doesn't matter all that much.

Several of the songs require alphabet echoes or answers. For example, 'I Wanna CCC-ee' is followed by the children playing three Cs.

Ostinatos, scale passages and repeated patterns are featured often. The children can then memorise the music and give more attention to musicianship, singing and fun.

For each song there is a suggested

age suitability. I often depart from these guidelines. Older children are happy to play simple pieces some of the time, especially if there is a fun element to it. Conversely, younger children may be ready for the challenge of a harder piece. Modify the speed of the teaching process accordingly.

When playing pieces like **Monday's Child** or **Scooby Dooby Do**, use minimal accompaniment when the children are actually singing. Massed tuned and untuned percussion playing overpowers the children's singing. I like to give them turns at being the accompanists - maybe 4 to 6 at one time - interspersed with instrumental sections when everyone plays together.

Simple arranging can make a big difference in the presentation of these pieces.

Click Sticks, for example, may be arranged:

Ostinato 2	2x
Add Ostinato 1	2x
Add bass and untuned percussion	2x
Just chant and bass	2x
Everything together	2x
Just the drums	1x
Add Ostinato 1	1x
Add Ostinato 2	2x
Everything together	2x

Can You Click Your Tongue?

Jon Madin

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. The first system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the first chorus, with lyrics: "verse 1 Can you click your tongue Can you click your stix Say yab-ba-dab-ba-do", "verse 2 roll your eyes ' ' roll your stix", "verse 3 sound like_a sheep and sound like a cow", and "verse 4 jump up_and down go 'round and 'round". The piano accompaniment features chords C, F, and G. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with repeat signs. The third system contains the vocal melody for the second chorus with lyrics: "(echo) and coo-coo - ca-choo (echo) Can you coo-coo - ca-choo". The piano accompaniment includes first and second endings. The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment with repeat signs.

This one is for the 5, 6, and 7 year olds. There are lots of actions, some fun words to echo and just a few repeated notes to find on the marimba.

In the choruses, I ask the children to wait till the sung instructions finish before they carry them out. I see how well they manage the first chorus before attempting the second.

Age Range 5 - 7

Remove bars?

Optional D, A and B.

Preliminary Exercises

With the little kids, we usually do a copying or echoing activity first to make sure the children are 'tuned in' and listening. Practice playing in time together on Ds and rolling smoothly on the Gs.

Extensions

Try making up additional 'Can you....?' verses. As well, you could try this approach:

Can you play on E ?

Can you play on F ?

Can you play on G ?

And now on C.

Very soft on E,

Very soft on F,

Very soft on G,

And loud on C.

Chorus 1

The musical score for Chorus 1 is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a circled 'F' above it. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Now lift up your stix and wave them all a-round Now". The second staff starts with a circled 'C' above it. The melody continues with quarter notes, followed by a series of rests marked with 'x'. The lyrics are: "click those stix I like that sound click Now". The third staff starts with a circled 'D' above it. The melody features eighth notes, followed by a series of eighth notes marked with 'x'. The lyrics are: "sev-en on the D in time with me Now soft-ly, soft-ly rol-ling on a G (played)". A circled 'G' and the word "rit." are placed above the final notes of the third staff.

Big sticks for a young person.



Verse 5 - Can you count to 3 (echo)
say Doh Ray Me (echo)
say Yabbadabbadoo - etc.

Verse 6 - Can you laugh out loud (echo)
go Boo Hoo Hoo (echo)
say Yabbadabbadoo - etc.

Verse 7 - Can you quack like a duck
and scratch your back
say Yabbadabbadoo - etc.

Verse 8 - Now jump up and down
go 'round and 'round
say Yabbadabbadoo - etc.

Chorus 2 - Now 7 on the F that's what we need (Play 7 Fs, etc.)
now 7 on the C 'cause that's our key
now 7 on the D in time with me
and softly, softly, rolling on a G

Antigravity

Music by Jon Madin

The music for this song is based on two ostinatos which appeared out of thin air at a festival jam. I added a melody when I was preparing the piece for its inclusion in *Marimba Music 1*.

Deborah A. Imiolo-Schraver wrote some beautiful words for it and used it with her class by combining the music with movement and singing. The lyrics are used with her permission.

I've added a countermelody with modified lyrics.

The musical score consists of the following parts:

- Ostinato 1:** A repeating rhythmic pattern in the treble clef.
- Ostinato 2:** A second repeating rhythmic pattern in the treble clef.
- Bass:** A bass line in the bass clef with chord symbols *Am* and *G*.
- Percussion:** A staff with notation for 'bang' and 'Thump'.
- Melody:** A treble clef staff with lyrics: "Yes - ter-day when I was sleep - ing I had the".
- Countermelody:** A treble clef staff with lyrics: "When I was sound - ly sleep - ing I had the strang - est feel - ing".

Melody lyrics

*Yesterday, when I was sleeping,
I had the strangest feeling, I was in
flight.
Suddenly, I heard a whisper,
And all around the voices, called out
my name.
Lifting me, higher and higher,
Just like a red balloon, lost in the
night.*

Countermelody lyrics

*When I was soundly sleeping
I had the strangest feeling
It was the strangest feeling
I was in flight.

I heard a sudden whisper
And all around the voices
And all around the voices*

Called out my name.

*They lifted me up higher
Just like a red balloon that's
Just like a red balloon that's
Lost in the night.*

5 Am G Am G

5

5

5

5

strang - est feel - ing I was in flight.

it was the strang - est feel - ing I was in flight.

There is an instrumental version of this song in *Marimba Music 1* (see page 46).



AGE RANGE

8 - 12 (and older)

REMOVE BARS?

Optional. Removing high Fs for Ostinato 1 players gives them a good reference point.

PRELIMINARY EXERCISES

Familiarize the students with the song and countermelody.

EXTENSIONS

Arrange the piece creatively. You could try percussion in some sections, unaccompanied singing, adding keyboard (as on the recording), or maybe featuring a recorder or two on the melody.

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