

Make a joyful noise to the Lord

Using music in Collective Worship



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1 Introduction

The role of music in school worship is primarily to bring pupils into an awareness of the presence of God, or at least to consider the possibility of this happening. To give all present the opportunity to lift their hearts and minds in the worship of God. In this sense the music is the servant of worship and not the other way round. It can bring worship alive enabling everyone present to enjoy it and to have fun! At the very least it should enable participants to have a sense of involvement and community.

This guidance is designed to help schools ensure that music has positive value in bringing their worship alive. It recognises that many schools will have a limited amount of musical expertise within their staff; fortunately there is now a wide range of materials on CDs and other formats to help meet this need. Details can be found in the later sections of this document.

In the Bible, the role of music is found from the first book (Genesis 31.27) to the last one (Revelation 15.2-3). As an aspect of human creativity it reflects the image of the creator God (Genesis 1.26), involving our whole personality (1 Corinthians 14.15); it accompanies pilgrims on their journey (Exodus 15) and will greet us at our ultimate destination (Revelation 19) in heaven.

This guidance should be read in the context of the general guidelines on Collective Worship in the document '*In Spirit and in Truth*'. This is designed for use by church primary schools, church secondary schools and other educational settings in the diocese.

2 Music to create an atmosphere

The benefits of using music to create a calm, quiet atmosphere are well-known in schools. The whole school community is encouraged to enter the place of worship in a peaceful manner they are more likely to engage with the opportunities for quiet, personal reflection which will be offered. Often a wide range of classical music is used and the pupils can be introduced to a range of composers in this way. A display or chart identifying the composer and the work can enhance this process.

But this is not the only way to use music in preparation for music; some other possibilities include:

- It may be appropriate to use recorded arrangements of instrumental versions of popular hymns and songs to be played quietly while pupils and staff reflect on the worship theme.
- If a more 'upbeat' atmosphere is desired, this is an opportunity to use some of the wide range of World Music. Playing music from other countries where Christianity is practised will also help pupils to appreciate the global dimension of the faith.
- Live music played by staff or pupils is particularly effective in focussing the attention of everyone at the start of worship.
- Sometimes it is helpful to use very quiet music as a "background" to a time of prayer, or to use a sung response such as "O Lord, hear my prayer" between short prayers. Music from the Taizé and Iona Communities can be especially useful here.
- Other possible sources of inspiration could include chart music, jazz and music from films or the musical theatre. Most schools will have people among their staff or pupils with expertise in these areas.
- This raises the issue of who selects music used in this way. Is it just the head, or are other staff, visiting speakers or pupils involved? Music can be selected by the whole school community in collaboration with the headteacher and worship co-ordinator.

3 Selecting new material

There are many areas to take into consideration when selecting new material for use in Collective Worship. It is not just a matter of finding songs which are instantly popular, as children's initial enthusiasm may soon be replaced by indifference or even boredom. Songs which are 'catchy' and quick to learn need to be balanced by material which needs a little more preparation, but will be enjoyed and remain meaningful in the long term.

There is certainly a place for the old favourites and many schools have a core group of songs that mean something special to them, but learning new songs is a vital aspect of developing effective Collective Worship. It helps keep worship vibrant and alive, providing us with new ways (and often words) to express our love and devotion to Christ. In the Psalms we are encouraged to "Sing to the Lord a new song" (Psalm 149.1).

Question	Answer
Would children understand the words in the hymns/songs sung? Do you understand them?	Spend time in Collective Worship teaching children the words and their meaning, to deepen their understanding.
How can traditional hymns be made more accessible?	Consider using modern accompaniments or modernised editions of traditional hymns.
How can songs/hymns that express a personal commitment be handled?	Hymns that express personal commitment, particularly where this is in the first person singular can be used but a suitable introduction such as 'this is a song that Christians often sing to express their feelings about God' may be necessary. Alternatively you could amend the words slightly.
How can younger children be encouraged to take part?	Songs that include repetition, actions or can be accompanied (sensitively) with shakers etc can help with participation.
How can older children be catered for?	Choose hymns/songs that include more challenging language/ideas. These can form a foundation for their future faith exploration.
How can young people learn key teaching or passages?	Some key Bible passages (such as the Lord's Prayer) have been set to music. This helps young people to learn them, especially if they are repeated in different acts of Collective Worship.
How else can hymns/songs be used in Collective Worship?	Some songs can be used as prayers or during times of reflection. Try singing a verse, then reading a prayer as the accompaniment continues, then singing another verse together. Music from Taizé and Iona Communities is particularly helpful for this.
How can spiritual development be enhanced?	Use visual stimuli alongside music to enhance the opportunity for spiritual development.
How to you engage pupils' interest?	Why not write words for hymns/songs to popular tunes e.g theme tunes from TV soaps or sports programmes.

How do you ensure hymn practice fulfils statutory requirements for Collective Worship?	Hymn practice does not constitute a daily act of Collective Worship. Other elements of worship need to be added, see Collective Worship guidance 'In Spirit and in Truth'.
How can new songs/hymns be introduced?	One way for the new song/hymn to be used is as the theme for Collective Worship. The Christian teaching can be explored and the song learnt over a period of time.
How many songs should the children know?	It is important to plan out which songs will be introduced over the coming term or year. It is also important to revisit previously learnt songs/hymns so worship can take place more deeply. There are lots of factors that impact on the number and range of songs that children learn.
How can staff be supported with the music?	Electronic versions are available to support singing/accompaniment of music in Collective Worship. If you don't have a musician on the staff, perhaps the pupils can provide the music.

Copyright issues

It is important that church schools are meticulous in observing the law on copyright. To understand most issues related to this the easiest source of information and guidance can be found on the website of the Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) who run a licensing scheme specifically for schools using copyright material in Collective Worship. You can access this excellent site at: www.ccli.co.uk/Visitors/School.cfm. This covers most, but not all, of the songs that schools are likely to use in worship; there is an extension available for the copying of music. To answer the two most obvious questions: yes, you do need a licence to copy words into PowerPoint presentations and other presentation media; and no, the school is not covered by any licence held by its church, not even for school services in the church!

4 Linking with parish worship

Musical links between church schools and parish churches can be developed through a range of joint activities. Such musical links can help foster wider aspects of developing a Christian ethos and good community links. Every school and parish has a distinctive relationship and there is therefore no 'correct' model for enhancing these links, but here are some ideas and suggestions taken from schools around the diocese.

- **Joint school/parish services**

In these cases the school (or part of it) attends a service to which parishioners are invited. Particular events such as patronal festivals, the beginning or end of the school term can provide a focus for this and for discussion of what music would be appropriate.

- **School led parish worship**

Schools can lead various parts of a service such as intercessions, readings and sometimes drama or dance. Many parishes value the chance to have young people singing as part of their worship.

- **School choir participation in parish worship**

School choirs sometimes sing alongside church choirs, sometimes they share the role by providing the singing for particular services. Participation in such events as a parish confirmation or ordination service has proved very successful.

- **Joint policy on hymns to ensure some common choices**

Amongst the most tangible and pivotal areas of cooperation is the choice of hymns and songs. These are often selected to relate to the Anglican calendar or lectionary. It is vital that this is seen as a two-way process, with age-appropriate songs being used in the church's worship (to the benefit of all!). It is good practice for people involved in the school and the church to meet regularly to discuss ideas about the content and style of worship. It is helpful for all schools to be made aware of songs used in church services when young people are present and for churches to be made aware of songs used in school worship.

- **Use of common settings**

Where there are specific musical arrangements of parts of the liturgy used in church services these can sometimes be readily incorporated into school worship (e.g. the Lord's Prayer, Taizé songs, parts of Eucharistic settings such as the Gloria, Kyrie or Sanctus).

- **Use of music on entry and exit for church and school worship**

This is a relatively easy way of providing a link and can be a simple but powerful message to pupils. Some parishes have used material from the annual Leavers' Services in their worship.

- **Utilising links where pupils are in church choirs**

Children who are regular worshippers sometimes facilitate or initiate closer cooperation. This is particularly true of children who are members of both the church and school choirs.

5 Resources

CDs (several include music and chords)
'No pianist for assembly, no problem' series (Kevin Mayhew) – backing tracks to popular hymns and worship songs selected for CE schools
Lord of the Dance (Kingsway Music)
All Thing Bright and Beautiful (Kingsway Music)
'New Children's Praise Songs' series (Kingsway Music)
Come and Praise (BBC)
Creative Ideas for Sacramental Worship with Children by Simon Rundell
Creative Ideas for Alternative Sacramental Worship by Simon Rundell
Websites and contacts for music, CDs, midi-files, song words etc
www.kevinmayhew.com
www.kingsway.co.uk
www.kingswaysongs.com
www.higherpraise.com
www.outoftheark.com
www.sharesong.org

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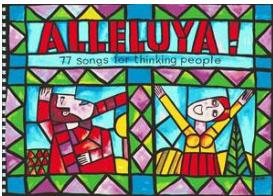
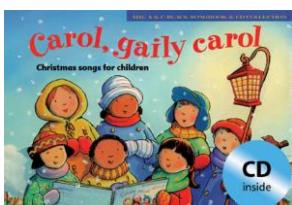
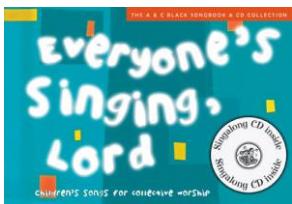
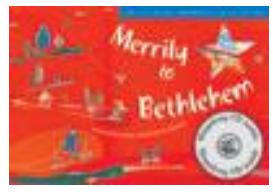
Appendix 1: A user's guide to songbooks and hymnbooks

We are grateful to Adam Earle (the Headteacher of West Hoathly CEP School) for producing this guide.

♪ = Worth a Look ♪♪ = Useful Extra ♪♪♪ = Recommended ♪♪♪♪ = Highly Recommended

Publisher: A&C Black

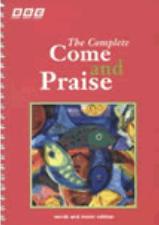
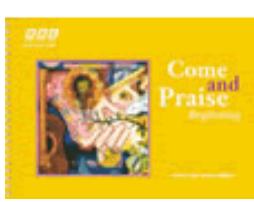
A well established and reliable educational publisher, A&C Black resources are well presented, hard wearing and varied. These books, specifically for use in worship, offer a great source of additional material to enhance your core repertoire and seasonal choice. A&C Black also publish a range of musical plays (including nativities) and assembly materials.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
ALLELUYA!	Enhancement 	Age 7+ ♪ 77 Songs for primary school assemblies and classroom singing. A range of styles and themes. A limited number are specifically Christian by nature but many reflect on Christian themes such as peace and love.	Words only edition for pupils is available.
CAROL, GAILY CAROL	Seasonal 	Age 4-7 (Flexible) ♪♪♪ 43 Christmas songs grouped to tell the Nativity Story making it useful for Christmas performances as well as seasonal worship.	Sing-a-long CD with clear piano accompaniments included with the book at no extra cost.
EVERYONE'S SINGING LORD	Enhancement 	Age 5-11 ♪♪♪ 45 songs for Collective Worship complete with guidance notes. Again a mixture of specifically Christian and related themed songs.	Enhanced CD with clear piano accompaniments and printable song words included with the book at no extra cost.
MERRILY TO BETHLEHEM	Seasonal 	Age 5-11 ♪♪♪ 44 Christmas songs and carols from a variety of traditions and cultures but all with a strong Christian basis. Some unusual and interesting examples for performances as well as seasonal worship.	Sing-a-long CD with clear piano accompaniments included with the book at no extra cost.

SING NOWELL!	Seasonal Age 5-11 	A very handy collection of 34 traditional carols arranged in user friendly keys (i.e. not too high) for children's voices. The carols have percussion parts, alternative voice parts and melody instrument lines.	Words only edition for pupils is available.
WITH CHEERFUL VOICE	Core Age 7+ 	100 hymns including some more traditional favourites such as "Morning has broken" and "Lord of all hopefulness". The collection has been in print for a long time and is perhaps a little dated.	Words only edition for pupils is available.

Publisher: BBC

The Come and Praise books can be found in the majority of primary schools and are tried and tested as the best base resource for many. Time must be taken to read the words through carefully as some items are less suitable in a church school setting than others. The accompanying resources are also valuable.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
COME AND PRAISE Combined Edition 	Core Age 5-11 	"The most popular school song and hymn book ever!" 149 traditional and contemporary hymns and songs including useful seasonal sections. Many good specifically Christian songs and others more general in nature.	CD recordings of songs being performed to sing along with or listen to. Instrumental music editions are available. Words only books available. Assembly activity books now published.
COME AND PRAISE BEGINNINGS 	Core or Enhancement Age 3-7 	60 songs arranged according to popular worship themes such as Praise, People, Creation, The Bible and Festivals. Accompaniments are easy to play. Suitable for younger children. As with "Come and Praise" it is a mixture of specifically Christian and more general items.	CD recordings of songs being performed to sing along with or listen to. Words only books available. Activity Book also published.
SONGS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	A new collection of fun songs which focus on a wide range of RE and PHSE themes commonly covered in Collective Worship. Not all the songs are Christian in nature but are useful to go with a specific topic such as sports day, community or rules.	Activity book and CD available. The words are photocopiable

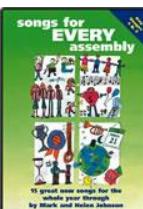
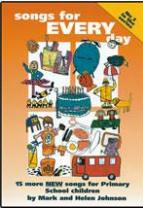
Publisher: Kevin Mayhew

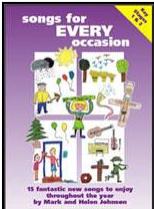
Another reliable and long established publisher, initially supplying the Catholic audience, but now catering for Anglicans as well, Kevin Mayhew have worked hard to bring inclusive and accessible Christian material to the school market. The resources are all well presented and although not necessarily cheap, they are good value for money. Kevin Mayhew also publish a wide range of very good Collective Worship resources.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
NO PIANIST FOR ASSEMBLY? NO PROBLEM (Non Catholic Edition)	Core Age 5-11 	As the title suggests this is an all inclusive resource for schools in need of a complete solution when no musician is available. Includes 166 of the most popular old and new hymns and songs sung in assembly.	Top 20 extracted CD collections are also available if you need to provide a less expensive resource for when the pianist is away!
THE CHILDREN'S HYMN BOOK	Core Age 5-11 	Includes 166 of the most popular old and new hymns and songs. Accompaniments are straightforward and are pitched for children's voices. Particular care has been taken to address the issue of inclusive language and to avoid manipulative, archaic or pious words and phrases.	Words only book is available.
KIDSOURCE 1	Enhancement Age 5-11 	A collection of 400 praise and worship songs for children. Many of the songs are more confessional in nature and are all specifically Christian. Some very useful new songs and ideas included but must be used with care and consideration in an inclusive worship context.	Words only edition for Books 1 & 2 combined is available.
KIDSOURCE 2	Enhancement Age 5-11 	The sequel edition with an additional 406 songs. Keys are again selected for children's voices.	A words only edition for Books 1 & 2 combined is available.

Publisher: Out of the Ark

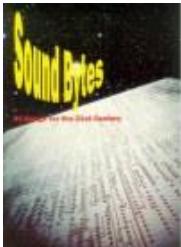
Ever increasing in popularity, not least because of the excellent music and accompanying CDs, these books provide a valuable extension to the basic repertoire. The Christmas and Easter Books are particularly recommended but all the books represent excellent value for money and include useful material. Out of the Ark also publish a very good selection of musical plays including high quality nativities.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
SONGS FOR EVERY ASSEMBLY 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	Songs with a wide variety of styles and positive themes and catchy tunes which, using the accompanying CDs, are very easy to learn. Some songs are specifically Christian whilst others are more general but still valuable.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.
SONGS FOR EVERY BODY 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	With lively music and varied styles these songs focus specifically on "The Body!" and relate to PHSE in particular. A few songs included are specifically Christian.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.
SONGS FOR EVERY CHRISTMAS 	Seasonal Age 5-11 	Perhaps the best and certainly one of the most popular from the "Songs for every..." series. Most songs included are specifically Christian and whilst a few are eminently avoidable the vast majority are excellent.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.
SONGS FOR EVERY DAY 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	Another great selection based on useful themes including some curriculum areas, thought provoking and good to sing. A few songs included are specifically Christian.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.
SONGS FOR EVERY EASTER 	Seasonal Age 5-11 	As with the Christmas collection this is a valuable resource with some excellent songs of varied style. Most songs included are specifically Christian.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.

SONGS FOR EVERY OCCASION 	Seasonal Age 5-11 	This covers a wide range of key school events in the school calendar such as Christmas, Remembrance and Mother's Day. Again very useful. Most songs included are specifically Christian.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.
SONGS FOR EVERY SEASON 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	Exciting songs that captivate the mood and colour of the changing seasons in a variety of musical styles. A few songs included are specifically Christian.	Supplied with performance and accompaniment CD.

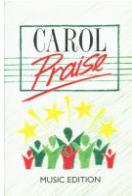
Publisher: Stainer & Bell

A lesser known contributor to the world of music for Collective Worship, this publisher's resources are none the less worthy of consideration.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
BIG BLUE PLANET 	Enhancement Age 5-11 	A collection of songs for young children to share with each other and with people of all ages. It was prepared by a group representing the main churches in Britain. Covers traditional Christian festivals and more contemporary themes.	Cassette containing 22 songs is available.
SOUND BYTES 	Enhancement Age 8-11 	A new collection of 94 songs for the 21 st century intended for children aged 8 and above in school and church. Also prepared with an ecumenical team.	Words edition and Cassette containing 22 songs are available.

Other Publications to Consider

These books are not intended specifically for use in schools but do contain some useful items if you have access to them. In addition it is worth consulting with the local church to find out which books they make regular use of in worship, particularly if you are to be involved in combined events.

Title	Type	Description	Related Resources
SONGS OF FELLOWSHIP Books 1, 2 & 3 	Church 	Wide ranging collection of Christian songs and hymns, many with highly confessional words and not designed for use in schools. However there are some useful items and these may be of use dependent on the nature of the school, the local church and the relationship between the two.	Combined words edition available
Published by Kingsway			
CAROL PRAISE 	Seasonal / Church 	This provides a surprisingly useful resource for a wider range of carols in a variety of styles. Whilst not designed specifically for schools it has some very good material with more complex accompaniments.	Words only book is available.

Appendix 2: Examples of how music is used in the Bible

Powerful:

- Soothing the spirit
(1 Samuel 16.23)
- Going out to battle
(2 Chronicles 20.20-23)
- Encouraging prisoners
(Acts 16.25)

Reflective:

Be still and know that I
am God.
(Psalm 46.10)

Prophetic:

While the harpist was playing,
the hand of the Lord came upon
Elisha
(2 Kings 3.15)

Celebrational:

Make a joyful noise to
the Lord
(Psalms 95 and 100)

Educational:

...as you teach and admonish
one another with all wisdom,
and as you sing psalms, hymns
and spiritual songs ...
(Colossians 3.16)

Instrumental:

Praise him with the trumpet,
the harp, the lyre ... with
strings and flute...
(Psalms 147, 150 etc)