

How to Raise Musical Kids: Suggested Resources

Recordings

Sing the Word: Bible memory songs
The Harrow Family
www.singtheword.com; 1-866-339-SING (7464)

Classical Kids Series
(*Mr. Bach Comes to Call, Beethoven Lives Upstairs, Mozart's Magic Fantasy, A Classical Kids Christmas, Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*, etc.)
Teachers guides and other excellent resources at www.childrensgroup.com. Bach and Beethoven titles available on video as well. Often in libraries.

Baby Dance: A Toddler's Jump on the Classics; Baby Sleep (Erato)
Music for marching, dancing, resting.

Music for Little People: 50 Playful Activities for Preschool and Elementary Children by John Feierabend (book and CD). This classic includes finger plays and rhythm games.

Babies Make Music
Kids Make Music, Too (Kleiner: Alfred)
Fantastic books, recordings, videos, and rhythm instruments by Lynn Kleiner.
Fun resources for early childhood music education.

Focus on the Family Radio Theater
The Chronicles of Narnia, Squanto, The Secret Garden, etc.
These contain excellent, artistic musical sound tracks.

Wee Sing series (Beall and Nipp: Price Stearn Sloan)
(*Wee Sing America, Songs and Finger Plays, Bible Songs, Silly Songs*, etc.- Songs everyone should know- great for car trips!)
Videos include *Wee Sing Train, King Cole's Party, Grandpa's Magical Toys*.
Excellent recordings and videos for young children.

Recommended kids' classics, available in numerous versions and formats:
Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev
Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens
(Jim Gamble Puppet Productions video versions of the above are excellent and available in many libraries.)
Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten
The Nutcracker Ballet by Tchaikovsky- books, recordings, videos

Books for Young Children

The Musical Life of Gustav Mole (Meyrich: Childs Play)
Charming story- includes book and CD.

Famous Children series (Rachlin:Barron's)
Lively stories about Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart with cute pictures.

Meet the Orchestra (Hayes: Harcourt, Brace & Co.)
Great pictures of animals playing instruments.

The Philharmonic Gets Dressed (Kruskin: Harper Collins)

Young Mozart (Isadora: Picture Puffins)

Libraries are full of engaging picture books about music.

Books for Older Children and Parents

The Gift of Music: Great Composers and Their Influences
(Smith and Carlson: Crossway Books)
Lives of composers from a Christian perspective, suggested listening lists.

Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers (Kavanaugh: Zondervan)

Raising Musical Kids (Kavanaugh: Vine Books)
Christian perspective on raising music-loving children, with Scripture references.

Raising Musical Kids: A Guide for Parents (Cutietta: Oxford University Press)
A complete road map for music education from birth through high school- assumes public school attendance but contains good advice.

The Story of the Orchestra: Listen While You Learn (Levine: Black Dog and Leventhal)
Book and CD, colorful pictures- excellent music appreciation for all ages.

The Enjoyment of Music: An Introduction to Perceptive Listening (Machlis: WW Norton)
Classic music appreciation for adults and advanced high school students. Any edition is good; various resources available- CD's, DVD's, etc. Good deals on used at Amazon.

The Gift of Art: The Place of Art in Scripture (Veith: InterVarsity Press)
What attitude should Christians have toward the arts? What does Scripture say?
From the dean of Patrick Henry College.

The Core Knowledge Series: What Your First Grader Needs to Know, etc.
(Hirsch: Doubleday)

These books contain clear and concise sections on music.

The Usborne Introduction to Music (O'Brien: Usborne)

Several good Usborne resources available, with great illustrations.

Stories of the Great Composers, books 1 and 2 (Montgomery and Hinson: Alfred)

Short lessons on the lives and music of the great composers with CD for elementary students.

Meet the Great Composers, books 1 and 2 (Montgomery and Hinson: Alfred)

Lessons and activities with companion CD; a more advanced continuation of the above.

Endangered Minds: Why Our Children Don't Think (Healy: Simon and Schuster)

Thought-provoking research on brain development.

Complete Curriculum

Discoveries In Music (formerly titled *Melody Lane*)

Complete one year music curriculum on DVD by the Calvert School; includes lap harp, triangle, and flutophone. Comprehensive and enjoyable, with excellent teachers guide. My kids watched this over and over. Well worth the investment! Recommended for pre-K through grade 3+. www.calvertschool.org.

Most of the above books and recordings are available at Amazon.com.