

Music Makers: At Home in the World

MEADOW

PARENTS' GUIDE TO ACTIVITIES

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Featured Instruments: The String Family



Violin



Cello



Viola

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Graphic Setting by Ann Martinez

Music Makers: At Home in the World

- Family Packets for: *My Home Place*, *Woodlands*, *Cattail Marsh*, and *Meadow*
Each unit includes: 1) Folder/Poster with Game Pieces, 2) Recording with songs, dances, instrument demonstrations, notation games and classical music, 3) Instrument Poster(s), 4) Notation Game(s), 5) Parent's Guide to the Activities
- Family Packets for *My Neighborhood Community* and *Seashore*, additional units containing similar resources without sequentially based materials
- My Album Binder for children to collect their materials
- *Teacher's Guide*, bound book with 160 activity cards, lesson planning binder, Supplement 2000
- *Nature's Voices* CD
- *Instruments and Ensembles* CD

The Musikgarten Music and Movement Series

<i>Family Music for Babies</i>	- newborn to 18 months
<i>Family Music for Toddlers</i>	- 15 months to 3 ½ years
<i>The Cycle of Seasons</i>	- 3 to 5 years
<i>Music Makers: At Home & Around the World</i>	- 4 to 8 years
<i>Music Makers: Around the World at the Keyboard</i>	- from age 5
<i>Music Makers: At the Keyboard</i>	- from age 6
<i>Musikgarten Adults: Enjoying the Piano Together</i>	

Additional Programs:

<i>God's Children Sing</i>	<i>Nimble and Quick</i>
<i>My Musical World</i>	<i>Seashore</i>
<i>My Neighborhood Community</i>	<i>Summer</i>
<i>Nature's Music</i>	<i>Twist & Turn</i>
<i>Nature Trail</i>	

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ISBN 1-885537-15-8

MAKING MUSIC AT HOME

We have prepared this family packet to help you take the joy of the Music Makers' classes home! Music is sound and it is our hope that these materials will help you and your family "fill the air with music" in your daily life.

Your family packet consists of a recording, a poster of the *Meadow* with six Game Pieces, a picture of the featured instrumental ensemble *String Quartet*, two notation games: *Rest Cards* and *Melodic Notation Cards*, and this *Parent's Guide to the Activities*.

The guide is structured to follow the activities as they are presented on the recording. You will find songs, poems, and stories, as well as sounds, listening games and movement activities, all accompanied by ideas to facilitate your musical learning and enjoyment at home. Use these as examples on which to build your own games and explorations.

Listen – Move – Play – Sing – these are the four main areas of our activities with your child to increase his/her participation in and enjoyment of the *Music Makers* program. In this book you will find many ideas to help you do this in each of the key areas.

The Meadow is our thematic point of departure for this unit. We encourage you to visit a meadow in your part of the country. Explore the vegetation and go looking for animals.

Our featured ensemble in this unit, the String Quartet, is the classical grouping in chamber music. It is made up of two Violins, a Viola and a Cello. Seek an opportunity for your child to explore one of these instruments, to hold it, to try out the strings, to investigate the sound chamber, to look carefully at the bow and to try to make a few sounds. Perhaps a child in your acquaintance plays one of the string instruments and would play for you. As you and your child become more familiar with the instruments and the sounds they make, try to attend a live performance where the instruments are played.

Children's most favorite activities include drawing and coloring. Always encourage your child to draw whatever captures his/her imagination and to put it in his/her own Music Makers Album.

Make music together often. Become your child's companion in discovering the world of music. You will be given the opportunity to watch your child's love of music grow and to help his/her ability to make music blossom.

INTRODUCTION TO THE POSTER

Meadows, or grassy fields, play a significant role in the regeneration of land that has been disturbed as a result of flood, fire, or human activities. When uninterrupted tracts of forest are cleared to accommodate agriculture or urban development, some of these areas are later abandoned, allowing the land to regenerate, literally from the ground up. The pioneer plant communities in this process of recovery are tough and hardy and use highly efficient means to disperse their seeds. As each community of plants prepares the ground for the next community, insects, birds, and mammals quickly find new habitats to exploit.

Colorful flowering wild plants attract a host of insect pollinators with their fragrance and nectar. The poster depicts goldenrods and asters, Queen Anne's lace, milkweed, which is vital to the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, and chicory, whose roasted root is used with coffee. Clover is also common in the meadow; it is good rabbit food and replenishes the soil's nitrogen as well.

By far the most numerous creatures for which the meadow is an ideal habitat are insects, providing birds with a bonanza for their young. The Goldenrod "Restaurant" game piece will be prominent in the poster. Goldenrod attracts insects that are preyed upon by other cleverly disguised insect predators. Grasshoppers, crickets, bees, and flies are food for the praying mantis, the goldenrod spider, and the ambush bug.

The life cycle of a monarch butterfly is also illustrated in this poster. The milkweed plant shows the egg, the caterpillar, the chrysalis and the adult orange and black butterfly called a Monarch. Insects are readily observable and a never-ending source of delight for children.

Browsing deer frequent the meadow. It is an ideal place for a fawn to hide or a red fox to hunt meadow voles close to its den. Be sure to look for these animals: a meadow vole and its grass-lined burrow; a field sparrow and a meadow lark near their well-hidden nests; a flicker enjoying a feast of ants in their underground home; and turkey vultures cruising large areas in search of carrion.



Crick - ets in the thick - ets, Ka - ty - dids in trees; make mu - sic in the sum - mer



car - ried by the breeze. Frogs in bogs and peep - ers and birds that live near - by



fill the air with mu - sic. So do you and I, and so do you and I.

American poet and author Aileen Fisher wrote this special verse for our Music Makers Series! Canadian song writer Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote the melody and composer Howard Baer has created this joyous setting for our theme song. We invite you to improvise your own way of making music to this tune. Use any and all of the instruments which you have to fill the air with music.

Recording: Children's Choir, Flute, Guitar, Bass, Piano

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

Meadow 1 (Week 23)

- Listen to the recording.
- Sing and play a singing game with *Hush, Hush*.
- Sing and play the chase game *Mouse, Mousie*.
- Copy two of the Rest Cards; chant and play the rhythms.

Meadow 2 (Week 24)

- Listen to the recording.
- Put together a duet with the family on improvised kitchen utensils.
- Look in a field or meadow for grasshoppers – they are harmless to handle.

Meadow 3 (Week 25)

- Listen to the recording.
- Play games with the Duple Rest Cards. Listen to CD No. 36.
- Take out your Blue Graphic Notation Cards from the *My Home Place* unit. Play games with them; make a composition and copy it.
- Sing and play *No, No, No* with family and friends.

Meadow 4 (Week 26)

- Listen to the recording, especially to the string instruments No. 15-20.
- Play games with the Blue Graphic Notation Cards from the *My Home Place* unit. Make a composition, sing it and then copy it.
- Look in a meadow for seed pods and seed heads.

Meadow 5 (Week 27)

- Listen to the recording.
- Play with the Melodic Pattern Cards. Listen to CD No. 37.
- Sing *Twinkle, Twinkle*; make up a scarf dance with the recording (No. 14).

Meadow 6 (Week 28)

- Listen to the recording.
- Color the Staff Coloring Page. Copy one or two Melodic Pattern Cards, and then sing them.
- Look for birds and notice their colors.
- Pick some meadow flowers and grasses and make an arrangement.

Meadow 7 (Week 29)

- Listen to the recording. Imitate playing string instruments while listening to them (CD No. 15-19).
- Play games with the Melodic Pattern Cards.
- Explore an open meadow or field for grasshoppers.

Meadow 8 (Week 30)

- Sing, dance and play your favorite songs. Repeat them often.
- Make singing and playing instruments part of every day. Repeat favorite activities often.

Title	Recording	Page
Beethoven: Allegro	20	12
Cello	19	12
Chirping	29	15
Cicada	26	14
Cricket	28	14
Do As I'm Doing	4	6
Donizetti: Duet	32	16
Down in the Meadow	7	8
Duple Rhythm Patterns	23	13
Goldenrod Restaurant		4
Grasshopper	25	14
Grasshoppers Three	31	16
How the Birds Got Their Feathers	38	20
Insect Quartet	30	15
Katydid	27	14
Little Bird, Little Bird	22	13
Major Tonal Patterns	13	10
Meadow, Introduction	2	4
Meadowlark	11	9
Meadow Vole		4
Melodic Pattern Cards	37	20
Minor Tonal Patterns	34	17
Mozart: Symphony 40	21	12
Music Makers	1	3
Nature's Voices in the Meadow	8	9
No, No, No	5	7
Northern Flicker	9	9
Plants in the Meadow		22
Playing Melodic Motifs		21
Red Fox	10	9
Rest Cards	36	19
String Instruments	15	12
There's a Little Wheel	35	18
There's Someone	12	10
Triple Rhythm Patterns	6	7
Twinkle, Twinkle	14	11
Under a Stone	3	5
Viola	18	12
Violin	16	12
Voices of Insects	24	14
Zum Gali Gali	33	17