



Music Makers: at the Keyboard, Year 2, Book 4 – Week 58 through 60

Dear teachers,

As we approach the end of year two materials, let's stop and consider what has transpired over this last year. The children experienced more complex reading material, lots of improvisation on chord tones, lots of new dances and drumming, more complex rhythm patterns, mini-musicales, and more information about composers, scales and chord progressions, and the beginning of naming notes on the grand staff. Year Three will take all of these concepts and move them to a more challenging level. I hope you will be able to continue to work with this material in a group setting next season.

Weeks 58 – 60

Week 58 is a good time to begin to suggest to the children to fill out their Favorites page for the final mini-musical. There is a new reading piece, *Old German Dance*. I will often assign a supplemental piece from book 3 or book 4 at this time.

Week 59 culminates with *I see the Moon* with Alberti bass, a nice piece for the mini-musical. I warm them up with the chord progression improvisation from their home assignment and then I ask them to create a chord progression with their blue chords. Each then uses this progression to practice their Alberti bass in the key of *I See the Moon*. This can be done with headphones or taking turns. Because *I See the Moon* is a familiar piece I turn it into a class ensemble at that lesson. Depending upon the size of the class I have at least one student play the left hand part and at least one student play the right hand part. I also assign singers to each part and pointers. Everyone gets something to do. If there is time we switch parts. There is some 6/8 dictation review and I make sure I put the possible songs for the dictation in the Singing Circle basket. Then we have a dress rehearsal and I have them write down what they plan to play next week on an index card that will go on their piano at home as a reminder. Everything is pulling together for the mini-musical for next week.

Week 60 - You can choose to make this class a big event or a small event. This year I decided to make it a Pizza Piano Party and I provided the pizza and the families provided the dessert! Certificates are filled out (I hum "Pomp and Circumstance" as I fill them out in front of the children and parents.). I also hand out registration packets for next year. I try my hardest to keep the classes on the same day, although I can't always guarantee the same time slot.

I hope you have had a great year of teaching year two of Music Makers at the Keyboard!

Happy Teaching,
Ellen Johansen