

Music Today & Every Day



Ready-to-Use
Music Lessons & Activities
for the Elementary Grades

TOD F. KLINE

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Artwork by Toya B. Warner

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tod F. Kline is an instrumental and vocal music teacher at Hooverville Elementary School in the Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, Area School District. He earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Science degrees from the North Carolina School of the Arts and Western Maryland College, respectively, and also attended Gettysburg College. Tod has been an adjunct faculty member for Shippensburg University, Penn State University, and Mercersburg Academy and is also the author of *Classic Tunes & Tales: Ready-to-Use Music Listening Lessons & Activities for Grades K–8* (Paramus, NJ: Parker Publishing Co., 1997).

ABOUT “MUSIC TODAY AND EVERY DAY”

This practical resource gives elementary music teachers a unique store of stimulating, tested lessons and activities for developing music literacy and linking music to the regular classroom curriculum. The lessons introduce children to the basic elements of music and include a variety of hands-on activities that build their understanding of music concepts and relate them to other content areas. While the study of music certainly needs no justification, it is beneficial to have other means to promote it. Complementing the academic curriculum can only yield positive rewards.

For easy use, the lessons and activities are printed in a big spiral-bound format that folds flat for desktop use and for photocopying of music, story and activity sheet pages. Lessons are organized into three grade-level sections:

Level 1 (Grade Levels K–2) provides 15 ready-to-use lessons for teaching music concepts such as contrast, loud/soft, AB/ABA, So-Mi, same/different pitches, beats per measure, slow/fast, and instrument families. The music concepts are tied to integrated subjects such as antonyms, size, animals, geometric shapes, habitats, weather, transportation, families and storytelling. In the lesson “Same/Different (The Farm),” for example, children identify same and different pitches in a melody through songs such as “I Got Me a Cat” and “Old MacDonald.” An activity page entitled “Same-Different/Animals Playing Instruments” invites them to circle the animals playing the same instrument.

Level 2 (Grade Levels 3–4) offers ten detailed lessons focusing on the concepts of note names, note values, music symbols, African music instruments, two- and three-section forms, American composers and more. These are connected to regular classroom concepts such as vowels, fairy tales, fractions, exaggeration, African/world culture, geometric shapes, biographies and fiction/nonfiction. The lesson entitled “Note Values,” for example, helps students learn to recognize the whole note, half note, and quarter note through the song “Riding in a Buggy” and an excerpt from Beethoven’s Piano Sonata No. 8, identifying fractions/notes on a Music Pizza page, writing the notes, and sorting notes in a “Pick ‘n Put” activity.

Level 3 (Grade Levels 5–6) presents ten detailed lessons featuring concepts such as bass clef notation, 6/8 and 3/8 meter, minor key signatures, voice, Civil War music, opera and women composers. Classroom ties touch upon suffixes, speed measuring devices, countries, the role of women, the Civil War, technology, the human body, mystery and others. In the lesson “The Vocal Instrument (Health),” for example, students perform various singing tasks such as diction, breathing, posture, voice care, range and quality as they sing the song “Rocky Mountain” at different tempos, volumes and keys, and then circle healthy practices for singing on an activity page.

Each grade-level section also provides a store of “Supplementary Materials,” including reproducible games, information sheets, activity pages, puzzles and more that can be used to reinforce and extend the lessons in that section or in any other way you wish. This is followed by 50 “Daily Music Skill-Builders” for daily practice in singing and rhythm skills and a reproducible Interdisciplinary Planner form to help you integrate music with the academic curriculum at each grade level.

You'll find that all of the lessons in this resource are illustrated, complete, and ready for use with minimal preparation on your part. Each lesson is spelled out in a similar, easy-to-follow format, including:

- Title:** a title identifying the music concept and related academic concepts to be developed
- Objective:** the lesson objective in behavioral terms
- Materials:** specific materials needed to carry out the lesson, including reproducible music pages, patterns, gameboards, and worksheets
- Procedure:** step-by-step activities for developing the lesson, including an opening activity, a listening activity, a singing or performance activity, and a game or composition activity
- Activity Pages:** one or more reproducible activity sheets to give students practice in applying what they have learned

Additional reproducible games or activities for reinforcing a particular lesson may also be found in the supplementary materials at the end of the section.

In short, this resource places at your fingertips a wealth of exciting music activities, games, activity sheets, songs, and skill-building exercises for daily use and reference. It will help you save preparation time, make teaching and learning music more fun for you and your students, and connect music concepts with the classroom curriculum. My hope is that you will find many of the lessons adaptable to all grade levels and that the easy step-by-step approach will help you create your own integrated lesson plans—making this resource truly useful today and every day.

Tod F. Kline

CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	iii
ABOUT MUSIC TODAY AND EVERY DAY.....	iv

LEVEL 1 (Grade Levels K–2)

Appreciation of <i>The Magic Flute</i> (Retelling a Story)	2
Lesson Plan (retelling the story of <i>The Magic Flute</i>)	2
Story of <i>The Magic Flute</i>	3
Musical Excerpts from <i>The Magic Flute</i>	4
Papa Gayno (pattern)	7
<i>The Magic Flute</i> Characters	8
<i>Activity Page: The Magic Flute</i> Story Sequence	9
Fast/Slow (Transportation)	10
Lesson Plan (distinguishing between fast and slow music)	10
Fast/Slow Music pages	12
Transportation Objects	16
Transportation Objects (cont.)	17
<i>Activity Page: Transportation</i> (Slow/Fast)	18
Mood of the Music (Weather)	19
Lesson Plan (identifying mood in music)	19
Mood Music page	20
<i>Activity Page: Calm or Stormy Moods</i> (Weather)	22
Soft/Loud (Animals in the Zoo)	23
Lesson Plan (distinguishing loud and soft music)	23
Soft/Loud Music page	25
Zoo Animal Cards	27
Zoo Animal Cards (cont.)	28
<i>Activity Page: Singing Loud and Soft Zoo Animals</i>	29
Same/Different (The Farm)	30
Lesson Plan (identifying same and different pitches)	30
Same/Different Music	32

Same/Different Animal Barns	34
Farm Animal Cards: Farmhouse, Cow, Horse, Pig, Chicken, Sheep, Cat, Barn	35
<i>Activity Page:</i> Writing Music Same/Different	43
<i>Activity Page:</i> Animals Playing Instruments Same/Different	44
Instruments (Size)	45
Lesson Plan (identifying instrument characteristics by size)	45
Music page	47
Instrument pages: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Harp	48
<i>Activity Page:</i> Sizes of Instrument	57
Low/Middle/High (Habitats)	58
Lesson Plan (identifying high, middle, and low pitches)	58
Music page	59
Low/Middle/High (Habitats)	60
<i>Activity Page:</i> Composing a Habitat Song	61
<i>Activity Page:</i> Low, Middle, High Stairs	62
Rhyming Words (Rhyming)	63
Lesson Plan (identifying rhyming words in songs)	63
Music pages	64
"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" Rhyming Words Cards	66
So-Mi Song and Hip-Knee Song	67
<i>Activity Page:</i> Rhyming Words for a Song	68
<i>Activity Page:</i> Writing About Rhyming Words	69
High and Low (Thermometer and Temperature)	70
Lesson Plan (recognizing high and low pitches)	70
High and Low Music page	72
<i>Activity Page:</i> Music Thermometers	73
<i>Activity Page:</i> Composer Thermometers	74
<i>Activity Page:</i> Music and Thermometers	75
So and Mi (Capital Letters)	76
Lesson Plan (identifying the So and Mi syllables)	76
So and Mi Music page	77
So and Mi Hand Signals	78
<i>Activity Page:</i> So and Mi Fill-in Page	79
<i>Activity Page:</i> Capital Letter Song Page	80
<i>Activity Page:</i> Song of _____	81

Instrument Families (Families)	82
Lesson Plan (identifying and distinguishing the instrument families)	82
Music page	84
<i>Activity Page:</i> Instrument Page	85
<i>Activity Page:</i> Brass Family Circle	86
<i>Activity Page:</i> Woodwind Family Circle	87
<i>Activity Page:</i> String Family Circle	88
<i>Activity Page:</i> Percussion Family Circle	89
<i>Activity Page:</i> Instrument Family Tree	90
Contrasts (Antonyms)	91
Lesson Plan (identifying contrasts in music)	91
Contrasts Music page	92
Music Boy Song	94
Musical Antonym Treasure Map (puzzle activity)	95
Antonyms and Music Contrasts	96
Antonyms and Music Contrasts (cont.)	97
<i>Activity Page:</i> Find the Antonyms or Contrasts	98
Contrast Wordsearch	99
Contrast Wordsearch Answer Key	100
So-Mi-La (Maps)	101
Lesson Plan (identifying the melodic syllable “LA”)	101
So-Mi-La Music	103
So-Mi-La Cards	104
Music Class Map	105
La La Land (gameboard)	106
Music Stairs	107
<i>Activity Page:</i> A Song with LAs	108
Form (Geometric Shapes)	109
Lesson Plan (identifying and performing AB and ABA forms)	109
Form Music	111
Form Shapes	116
Other Form Shapes	117
<i>Activity Page:</i> Find the Sections of an AB Song	118
<i>Activity Page:</i> Shapes and Music Form	119
Beats per Measure (Addition)	120
Lesson Plan (recognizing the number of beats per measure)	120

Music pages	122
Large Rhythm Cards	124
Small Rhythm Cards	125
<i>Activity Page: Adding Notes</i>	126

Supplementary Materials (K–2) 127

Famous Americans in Music	128
Careers in Music	129
Music and George Washington (1732-1799)	130
Music and Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)	131
<i>Activity Page: Strong & Weak Beats and Number of Beats</i>	132
Playing Music Instruments by Push and Pull	133
Instrument Family Word Finds: Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, Percussion	134
Instrument Family Word Finds (Answer Key)	135
Instrument Family Sandwiches	136
Instrument Connect-the-Dots	137
<i>Activity Page: Adding Beats and Notes (Buying Fast Food)</i>	138
<i>Activity Page: Note Values & Time</i>	139
Beats per Measure Trains (pattern)	140
Music Dice Games and Activities	141
Music Die, Point Note and Composer Pieces	142
Musicland Gameboard	143
<i>Activity Page: Notes & Beats and Subtraction</i>	144
<i>Activity Page: So-Mi</i>	145
<i>Activity Page: So-Mi-La</i>	146
Treble Clef Puzzle	147
<i>Activity Page: Barlines, Beats, and Measures</i>	148
<i>Activity Page: Musical Antonym Treasure Map</i>	149
Daily Music Skill Builders Activities	150
Daily Singing Skill Builders 1–25	152
Daily Rhythm Skill Builders 1–25	156
Interdisciplinary Planner	159

LEVEL 2 **(Grade Levels 3–4)**

Note Names (Blends, Digraphs, squ-ph, and Long Vowels) 162

Lesson Plan (identifying the names of tonal music notation on a treble clef staff)	162
Music page	164
Note Page (patterns)	165

<i>Activity Page:</i> Learning to Read Music	166
Music Crossword Puzzle	167
<i>Activity Page:</i> Playing the Long-legged Sailor	168
<i>Activity Page:</i> Music Dog	169
Note Values (Basic Fractions)	170
Lesson Plan (identifying and recognizing the whole note, half note, and quarter note)	170
Music page	171
“Riding in a Buggy” refrain page	172
Music Pizzas: Whole Note, Half Notes, Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes	176
<i>Activity Page:</i> Piano Sonata No. 8 (Pathétique)	177
<i>Activity Page:</i> Writing Practice	178
<i>Activity Page:</i> Pick ‘n Put	179
Dynamics (Exaggeration)	180
Lesson Plan (distinguishing the music dynamics pp, p, mp, mf, f and ff)	180
Music page	182
Volume/Dynamics Button	183
Dynamics Puzzles	184
<i>Activity Page:</i> Dynamics Marking	186
<i>Billy the Kid</i> by an American Composer (Famous Americans/ Role Playing)	187
Lesson Plan (identifying Aaron Copland and his ballet <i>Billy the Kid</i>)	187
Music page	189
Aaron Copland	191
<i>Billy the Kid</i> Story Page	192
<i>Billy the Kid</i> Story Sequence Page	193
Aaron Copland and <i>Billy the Kid</i> Crossword Puzzles	194
Adding Note Values (Fractions)	196
Lesson Plan (identifying, recognizing, and performing the whole note, half note, quarter note, and eighth note)	196
Music page	198
Pizza Note Slices	199
Pizza Note Slices Rest Page	200
<i>Activity Page:</i> Completing Measures	201
<i>Activity Page:</i> Note Values and Math	202
<i>Activity Page:</i> Subtracting Notes	203
<i>Activity Page:</i> Table Song	204
<i>Activity Page:</i> Baseball Game: Adding and Subtracting Notes	205

Petrouchka and 1812 Overture**Music Symbols (Fiction and Nonfiction) 206**

Lesson Plan (identifying the music symbols for the sharp [#], natural [\natural], and the flat [b]) 206

Story page 208

Music page 209

Performance Game Symbols Cards 211

Activity Page: Symbol Search 212

Activity Page: Music Symbol Orchard Page 213

Symbol Performance Page 214

Activity Page: Symbolized Picture Page 215

African Music (World Culture/Africa) 216

Lesson Plan (distinguishing slow and fast while performing and identifying characteristics of African music) 216

Music pages 218

Map of Africa 220

African Musical Instruments 221

African Music Facts Page 222

Activity Page: African Music 223

Making Instruments**(Vibration, Cone, Cylinder, Cube, and Rectangle) 219**

Lesson Plan (distinguishing the physical attributes of the idiophone, areophone, chordophone, and membranophone) 219

Shapes 226

Activity Page: Sizes of Instruments 227

Activity Page: Instrument Match Page 228

Music page 229

Project #1 Box Guitar (Chordophone) 230

Project #2 "Air-a-net" (Areophone) 231

Project #3 The Shake-e-bean (Idiophone) 232

Project #4 Drumster (Membranophone) 233

Stephen Foster (Famous People, Biography) 234

Lesson Plan (identifying two-section and three-section forms) 234

Music pages 236

Camptown Races Lyrics 239

Form Shapes 240

Stephen Foster Biography 241

What Song Am I? Cards 242

Activity Page: Who's Who? 243

Who's Who? (answer page) 244

3/4 Meter: The Music of *Sleeping Beauty* (Fairy Tales) 245

Lesson Plan (performing and composing in 3/4 meter) 245

Music pages 247

Sleeping Beauty Story Page 248

Song Pages 249

Composition Page for Team Composition 251

Melody Page for Team Composition 252

Lyrics Page for Team Composition 253

Rhythm Page for Team Composition 254

Dynamics/Tempo Page for Team Composition 255

Symbols Page for Team Composition 256

Checker Page for Team Composition 257

Performer Page for Team Composition 258

Activity Page: Sleeping Beauty 259**Supplementary Materials (3–4). 260***Activity Page:* Dynamics 261

Dynamics (answer key) 262

Activity Page: Symbol Community 263

Team Composing and Orchestration (record sheet) 264

Music Basketball 265

Music Basketball Tournament (record page) 266

Music Basketball Basket 267

Music Basketball Basketballs 268

Activity Page: Time Signature and Meter Measuring 269

A Music Recipe for Writing a Song 270

Activity Page: A Music Recipe 271

Music Writing Page 272

Music Store 273

The Music Store Order Page 274

Music Store Money 275

Activity Page: Healthy Music and Body Organs 276

Healthy Music and Body Organs (answer key) 277

Activity Page: Healthy Music Body 278

Name This Song 279

Name This Song (Tunes listed by melodic syllables) 280

Name This Song (Tunes listed by melodic notation) 281

Name This Song (Tunes listed by rhythm notation) 282

Daily Singing (Pitch) Skill Builders 26–50 283

Daily Rhythm Skill Builders 26–50 285

Interdisciplinary Planner 287

LEVEL 3

(Grade Levels 5–6)

Civil War Music (Civil War) 290

Lesson Plan (identifying characteristics, composers, and music of the Civil War) 290

Civil War Music Facts Page 292

Civil War Music Team Page 293

Civil War Music Packet (cover page) 294

Music pages 295

Activity Page: My Civil War Song 301

Activity Page: Civil War Music Excerpt Page 302

Activity Page: Civil War Music 303

Civil War Music (answer key) 304

Opera (Countries and Cultures) 305

Lesson Plan (identifying the parts, composers, and titles of opera) 305

Music page 307

Activity Page: Filling-in-the-Blanks About Opera 309

Filling-in-the-Blanks About Opera (cont.) 310

Filling-in-the-Blanks About Opera (answer key) 311

Filling-in-the-Blanks About Opera (answer key, cont.) 312

Opera Dots pages 313

Opera Around the World (cover page) 318

Opera Around the World pages: United States, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Russian Federation 319

Activity Page: My Opera 325

Tempo-Music Terms (Italian/Windspeed, Measuring Devices) 326

Lesson Plan (identifying the terms presto, allegro, moderato, andante, adagio, largo, ritardando, accelerando, and a tempo) 326

Music page 328

Tempo Term Cards 330

Tempo Term Cards and Tabs 331

Activity Page: Tempo Matching 332

Tempo Circles 333

Tempo Circle Terms and Objects 334

Activity Page: What Doesn't Fit? 335

Johann Sebastian Bach (Biography) 336

Lesson Plan (identifying the composer Johann Sebastian Bach) 336

Music page 338

Biography of Bach 339

<i>Activity Page:</i> Composer Listening Report	340
FBI File: Johann Sebastian Bach (cover page)	341
MO page	342
<i>Activity Page:</i> FBI Facts Report	343
Composer Facts Cover	344
Composer Facts Page	345
<i>Activity Page:</i> Writing a Biography for a CD-ROM Encyclopedia	346
<i>Activity Page:</i> Composer Lottery Ticket	347
The Vocal Instrument (Health)	348
Lesson Plan (practicing various singing elements such as diction, breathing, posture, voice care, range, and quality)	348
Music pages	350
Voice Placement Exercises	354
<i>Activity Page:</i> Defining the Voice	355
Defining the Voice (answer key)	356
<i>Activity Page:</i> Parts of the Vocal Instrument	357
Parts of the Vocal Instrument (answer key)	358
<i>Activity Page:</i> A Healthy Approach to Singing	359
Caring for Your Voice (healthy practices)	360
<i>Activity Page:</i> Web Page for Singing	361
The Elements of Music (Persuasive Writing/Fact-Opinion).	362
Lesson Plan (demonstrating a basic understanding of the basic elements of music through writing)	362
Music pages	364
Music Element Cards/Music Element Definition Cards: Tempo, Dynamics, Form, Texture, Style, Mood, Duration, Tone Color, Timbre, Pitch	367
Elements of Music Definitions page	377
<i>Activity Page:</i> Song Description Team	378
<i>Activity Page:</i> Writing About Music	379
<i>Activity Page:</i> Which Element Is Which?	380
Which Element Is Which? (answer key)	381
Elements of Music Crossword Puzzle	382
Elements of Music (answer key)	383
An Eighth Note Gets a Beat (Fractions)	384
Lesson Plan (reading and performing in the meters of 6/8 and 3/8)	384
Music page	386
Big Meter Cards	387
Small Meter Cards	393
<i>Activity Page:</i> Music Math	395
<i>Activity Page:</i> Eighth Notes and More	396

Bass Clef Notation (Suffixes and Parts of Words) 397

Lesson Plan (identifying and naming notes of the bass clef) 397

Music pages 399

Bass Clef Staff 401

Bass Clef (F Clef) 402

Bass Clef Staff Notes and Barlines 403

Activity Page: Learning the Bass Clef 404*Activity Page:* Bass Clef in Words 405*Activity Page:* Only in the Words 406*Activity Page:* Treble to Bass, Bass to Treble 407**Women Composers (Role Change of Women) 408**

Lesson Plan (identifying various women composers and their music) 408

Music page 409

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (b. 1939) 411

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847) 412

Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896) 413

Amy Beach (1867-1944) 414

Cecile Chaminade (1857-1944) 415

Activity Page: Who, What, When, and Where 416*Activity Page:* Women Composers Timeline 417

Women Composers Crossword Puzzle 418

Women Composers (answer key) 419

Women Composers Wordsearch 420

Women Composers Wordsearch (answer key) 421

Keys/Mood (Mystery, Fantasy, Drama, and Comedy) 422

Lesson Plan (identifying minor key signatures) 422

Music page 424

Mood and Literature page 425

Mood Examples page 426

Mood and Literature 427

Activity Page: Relative Minor Keys 428*Activity Page:* Literature and Key 429*Activity Page:* Naming the Key 430*Activity Page:* A Key to Literature 431**Supplementary Materials (5-6) 432**

Adding Words/Lyrics (Similes, Metaphors, and Alliteration) 433

Activity Page: Adding Lyrics 434

Web Page Designer 435

Activity Pattern: Web Page 436

Who Am I? (American Composers) 437

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)	438
George Gershwin (1898-1937)	439
John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)	440
Scott Joplin (1868-1917)	441
Ellen Taffe Zwilich (b. 1939)	442
Composer Questions	443
Activity Page: Composers Selections	444
Music Football	445
Music Football Scoreboards	446
Music Football Questions	447
Music Football Questions (cont.)	448
Music Football Questions (cont.)	449
Music Football Field	450
Activity Page: 16th Notes (Fractions)	451
Music Pizza (16ths)	452
MASCAR Racing (Music Association of Stock Car Racing)	453
MASCAR Race Track	454
MASCAR Racecars	455
MASCAR Response Page	456
MASCAR Sample Questions	457
Daily Singing Skill Builders 51-75	458
Daily Rhythm Skill Builders 51-75	460
Interdisciplinary Planner	462