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# Robert A. Amchin

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#### The Author

Dr. Robert A. Amchin is a nationally and internationally known Orff pedagogue and professor of music and music education. He also provides recorder, movement, and pedagogy instruction for Orff courses and workshops nationally. He taught elementary music in Spring, Texas, prior to teaching at the collegiate level.



# **Acknowledgments**

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#### The Pieces

Thee pieces are written for beginner recorder ensembles. Each ensemble has a particular musical focus and challenge to the young musician. Certain parts might be played by the teacher on tenor recorder or Orff instruments based on the needs and musical facility of your players. Introductions, interludes between repetitions, movement accompaniments, and improvised percussion parts are also possible. Performance suggestions are given at the end of this book. I encourage you to expand these pieces to meet your musical needs and creativity. Enjoy!

#### The Audio Tracks

Full performance versions of each piece as well as accompaniment versions minus the soprano recorder tracks are included with your purchase. The Audio Tracks are suitable for classroom and individual practice sessions as well as accompaniment for public performance.

The Audio Tracks were recorded at Electric Arts Studio in Singer's Glen, Virginia. The recording engineer was Bart Reardon and the producer was Brent Holl. Bass Samples by Abraham Laboriel are courtesy of Spectrasonics Bass Legends.

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# **The Audio Tracks**

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# It's in the BAG







# **Teaching Suggestions and Performance Notes**

#### "It's in the BAG"

- This study uses B, A, and G and simple rhythms.
- A percussion ostinato might be added.

# "Wake Up! You Sleepy Head"

- A limited number of pitches are used in a slightly more complex piece than the first.
- Invite children to add a text to the Soprano Recorder 1 part.
- In a final performance, you might use the Hand Drum Ostinato as an introduction.

## "Such Grace"

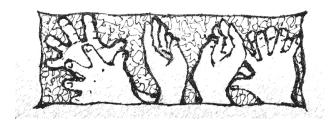
- This study in G pentatonic uses 6/8 meter.
- Students could play the Soprano Recorder 1 line as an introduction, then repeat the entire piece as written.
- Students could create a graceful dance to the piece.

# "E's and Low D - Canon in Three"

- Invite the group to play the melody once in unison and then repeat in canon.
- Play the hand drums throughout.
- This piece could be used to introduce high E to beginners since it only is used once.
- Play low E if you prefer and challenge your class to play the high E.

## "Frolics With F#"

- Suggest using the Hand Drum Ostinato as an introduction and as an interlude between repetitions.
- You might have the group play line 1 in unison, then line 2, and finally as written.
- Explore playing other melodies in thirds.



## "Round E Round We Go-e"

• Practice those E's in 6/8!

# "Warm and Witty"

• Encourage students to use legato tonguing throughout. Lighten air flow to keep high E's in tune.

## "What to Do With 3 and 2"

- This piece presents a rhythmic challenge for students. Suggest additional Latin percussion instruments to make this piece swing!
- Note that the pitches used in this piece do not go above high D.

# "On a Roll"

• You could present F natural with this piece. This piece also has a challenging Tenor Recorder part.

## "Low and Sweet"

- This piece in C pentatonic includes high and low C.
- Encourage students to improvise pentatonic interludes between repetitions of the melody creating a recorder rondo.

## "Cameron's Train"

• Add train whistles, repeat, and accelerando! Off you go!

#### Hand Drum Notation

- Stems down = slightly accented down stroke played with the thumb
- Stems up = unaccented up-stroke played with fingertips.







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