



MUSIC 8 LESSON PLAN

TEXT:

We Sing of Our World (Catholic)

INTRODUCTION

“He prays twice who sings well,’ or ‘He who sings well prays twice.’ Yes, the intensity that the prayer acquires from the chant increases the ardor of it and multiplies the efficacy of it. Sing, therefore, sing with the voice, sing with the heart. Make understood how beautiful it is to pray by singing, as you do, with the Church and for the Church. Be messengers of joy, of goodness, of light. May your souls remain always ardent so that your lips are always worthy to celebrate the praises of the Lord, in honor of Whom you sing.”

From a homily preached by Pope Paul VI (September, 1977)

TEACHING TIPS

- Students at this level should have from 60 to 90 minutes a week in music class. You may have music class each day for 15 to 20 minutes, or two or three longer music classes a week. Many students like to end their day with music class.
- Some families have music class together as a family, with the children singing or listening to recordings or attending a musical performance. Your child should enjoy this class! Make it a time for family fun. Perhaps when Dad comes home, he would enjoy having a singing session with the family. Why not sing a religious song after the family Rosary?
- Music class does not have to be limited to singing the songs in the text. Take your child on a field trip sometime. Visit a music store, a dance school, or a store that sells musical instruments. Find out if the local high school or college is putting on an interesting musical. See if any recordings are available at the local public library or record store, or at the local Catholic bookstore. Some home school support groups start choirs or choral groups.

Any one of these activities may take the place of a music class.

Liturgical music is, in addition to being an excellent teaching tool, a necessary component of a Catholic education. You may purchase the *Adoremus Hymnal*, which is available at Ignatius Press. This hymnal contains many popular hymns. For a collection of traditional Catholic hymns, obtain *The Westminster Hymnal*, which is available from Catholic Treasures at www.catholictreasures.com. You also may find Catholic music on the Internet. Many recordings of Gregorian Chant are available on CD. Naxos, a label that specializes in classical music, offers many excellent CD recordings, both secular and sacred, at reasonable prices (www.naxos.com). There are other notable producers of choral, classical, traditional acoustic, and “Early Music” recordings. Dorian Recordings, MA Recordings, and Reference Recordings all produce a variety of carefully recorded classical and sacred music.

- Music class is not required by Seton if your child is taking music lessons or if he sings in a choir, or is somehow involved in a regular music activity. In this case, talk to the instructor to obtain some idea of a grade for your child.



GRADING GUIDELINES

- Please grade your child yourself. Grade him according to his willingness to try to sing or his willingness to try the musical endeavor upon which you decide.
- Use letter grades. Give him an “A” for an excellent attitude, a “B” for a very good attitude, and a “C” for an average attitude.
- If your child is taking music lessons or involved in some other musical activity, ask the instructor how he is doing, and assign a grade based on that.
- In addition to this Lesson Plan, you have received Music 8 Quarter Report Forms. Record each average quarter grade on the appropriate music quarter report form.
- At the end of each quarter, send Seton the quarter report form with the average quarter grade recorded. You must supply this quarter grade, as the home grade is the sole basis for the grade for this class. However, you may submit the grade to our Seton website. Go to www.setonhome.org. Click on My Seton, then Log on. Click on Courses, then scroll down to Music 8, then move your cursor to the appropriate quarter, then click on View to enter the Parent Grade.

FIRST QUARTER

WEEKS ONE TO NINE

SINGING ASSIGNMENTS:

Look through the songbook *We Sing of Our World*. Note on the title page the names of the authors. Note the dedication to the King of the Universe and the Table of Contents arranged according to the liturgical year. Skim through the pages and notice the illustrations, the religious songs, the Gregorian chant, Latin hymns, and quotes from the Bible. In the back of the book, you will find a Glossary of Musical Terms, a keynote page, and aids to musical notation.

In this first quarter, sing the After Pentecost songs. Memorize “Down in Adoration Falling.” You may want to sing some other songs; look for songbooks at your local library or bookstore. Check the Internet for good music books. If you have a piano, keyboard, a harmonica, or any musical instrument, use it to help you stay on key.

OPTIONAL READING ASSIGNMENTS:

During this quarter, read some books on a musical topic of your choice. Look in the music section of your library, especially in the Children’s section or in the Young Adult section. These sections usually have books with good explanations and illustrations. Some topics to consider are musical instruments, classical music, folk music, opera, ballet.

Please send to Seton the First Quarter Report Form with your quarter grade recorded. You may choose to record your child’s grade on the Seton website.