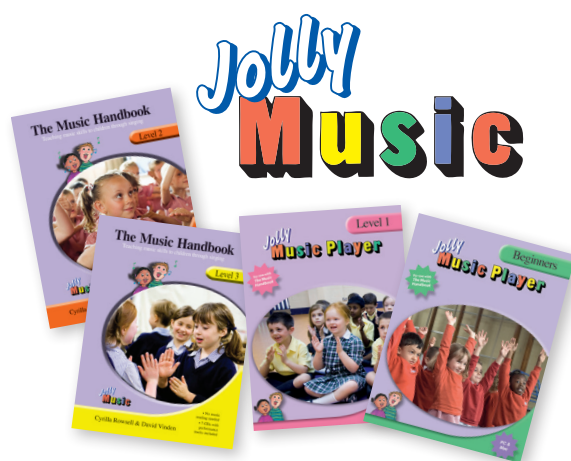


MUSIC →

# Jolly Music

A creative, well-planned and inspiring music curriculum that promotes musicianship through teaching singing in a fun way



## AT A GLANCE

- Puts the spirit of singing at the heart of music education
- Uses tried and tested principles with easy-to-follow lesson plans
- Highly accessible content with singability and simple rhythms
- Engages the 'inner hearing' of children and helps them to pitch accurately

REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL



Ella Fitzgerald once said, "There is only one thing better than singing and that is more singing." To this we can add that children who sing are happy children. But do we sing enough in our schools?

Jolly Music resources enable all teachers to teach singing and to help make singing as natural as speaking and a daily part of class life for everyone. These incredibly astute and intelligent resources are based on the approach of Zoltán Kodály, a Hungarian composer and music educator who said that to teach children an instrument without developing singing first was like building on sand.

Following this philosophy, Jolly Music offers an inclusive, highly structured and multi-sensory programme, with all the teaching done through the experience of singing. The curriculum has been lovingly and scrupulously created and it is packed with very clear step-by-step singing lessons that are second to none, each brimming over with songs, rhymes, simple games and plenty of actions.

There are four handbooks available, each with six accompanying CDs which equate to four levels: beginner and levels 1-3. Each of the 144 page handbooks provide a stunning collection of 30 pure, high-quality lesson plans of around 20-40

minutes each. These are very carefully structured and are made up of a sequence of numbered steps. They progress from the simple to the more complex in small and logical steps, with plenty of repetition, reinforcement and practice. The teacher guidance notes are concise and thoughtful and clearly articulate the musical aims, material and lessons, with tips for singing to children, leading a class and teaching the songs. With keys to symbols used in lessons, a glossary and a pupils' activity record, the handbooks excel.

The resources go further by offering fantastic new software to use with the handbooks called Jolly Music Player. Every song can be displayed on a whiteboard with full-sized visuals, audio and some brilliant animations, where hearts above words come to life in time with the pulse and actions for the rhymes and songs. You can use the lesson playlists or create your own, as well as print posters, rhythm cards, music PDFs and templates.

I think you could achieve an astonishingly high standard of musicianship by incorporating five or ten minutes practice each day. Doing so will help children develop well-trained ears and lay the perfect groundwork for learning an instrument.

teach  
PRIMARY

## VERDICT

- ✓ Provides a comprehensive system of music education
- ✓ Enables children to become active and instant music makers
- ✓ Develops self-awareness, self-confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ Fun, enjoyable, effective and ambitious
- ✓ Promotes a thirst for music

## UPGRADE IF...

You are looking to help children find their voices, build a singing community and make a marked difference to children's music education.