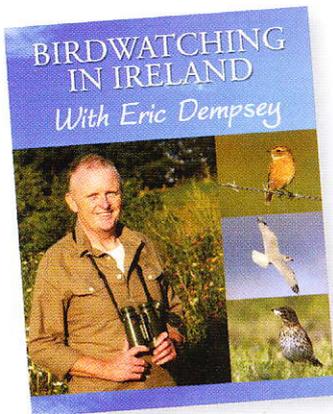


Songbirds, singers & self-



A passion for birding

This is a very attractive, easy to read book with magnificent photos. Dempsey shares his passion for 'birding' and you may find it contagious! The introduction deals with how to get started with lots of practical advice.

The first section examines birds in terms of their feathers, beaks and vocalisations as they can be key features in bird identification. Then we are given a tour through the seasons, spring and autumn migration and what we can expect and look out for. The language of 'birders' is also unravelled for us.

The second section deals with bird identification in greater detail, beginning with ten steps to help look at and identify birds. He then leads us from bird watching at home in our gardens and parks, to bird watching in coastal areas. There are specific chapters on ducks, birds of prey, owls, waders, gulls, warblers and North American late summer visitors to our island. It is interesting to note that he acknowledges the early influences of two national school teachers in promoting his interest in nature and "discovering that writing was fun".

Bird Watching in Ireland With Eric Dempsey is published by Gill & Macmillan, see www.gillmacmillan.ie. Price €15.99. ISBN 978 07171 5107 3.

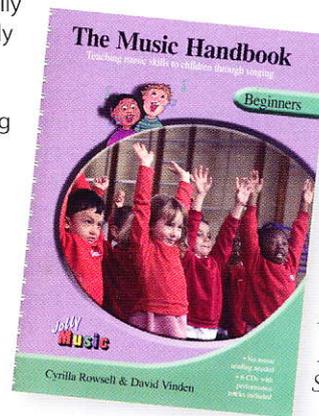
Reviewed by MARION CUMMINS, Scoil Muire, Birr, Co Offaly.

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Teaching music skills through singing

Every teacher has heard of *Jolly Phonics* and now we have *Jolly Music*! This substantial handbook for teachers focuses on the second of the 3 strands of our music curriculum – listening and responding and performing.

This handbook was designed with the teacher who has little musical background and for the more proficient musically trained teacher. It utilises the Kodaly approach, a Hungarian composer and educator. It basically uses singing as a basic means of working with children. The voice is the instrument! Through a repertoire based on playground rhymes, the children learn about musical elements like pulse, rhythm, pitch, loudness and speed. Like, all the Jolly learning products, activities are multi-sensory and make the lessons fun.



It contains 6 CDs to accompany the 30 lesson plans. It gives clear guidance to the teacher who is running the music lesson every step of the way, with accompanying pupil assessment record sheet. Each lesson is laid out in a colourful and clear way with full musical notation and lyrics for the children. I liked the way that each lesson was broken up into a sequence of numbered steps, all the new activities were flagged at the start of each lesson plan and any materials that you might need.

This resource book is also available in level 1 and 2 with *Jolly Music Big Books* to accompany each stage.

Published by: Jolly Learning Ltd. ISBN:978-1-84414-112-8. Price: €39.55.

Reviewed by: ROZZ LEWIS, Saplings Special School for Autism, Carlow.

World Book Day (1 March) Tokens

Is your school registered to receive them?

Get ready to smile, laugh and read along. World Book Day is back on 1 March 2012 with a set of 9 new children's books from Ireland and the UK's finest authors, all part of World Book Day's quest to show young people how magical reading can be.

Irish booksellers, together with National Book Tokens are giving Irish children a FREE book, by sponsoring more than 1 million book tokens in celebration of World Book Day. Young people can pick one of the must-reads for free with the €1.50 World Book Day Book Token, which will be distributed to primary schools. If your school has not received its WBD Tokens in previous years, let us know by emailing worldbookdayireland@gmail.com with your school roll number, contact details and number of pupils. The book token will be valid from 27 February to 25 March 2012.

Children can choose from authors including Derek Landy, who will delight and spook older children with the newest instalment of his Skulduggery Pleasant series, *The End of the World*. The O'Brien Press has once again published a dual language book; *Marco Moves In*, by Gerry Boland/Bróga Thomáis by Una Leavy.

Children of all ages can discover *Roald Dahl's*

Fantabulous Facts, be treated to a *Big Day Out* from Jacqueline Wilson, search for Wally in the 25th anniversary edition of Martin Handford's *Where's Wally Now?* or sing along to the *What The Ladybird Heard Song* with storyteller extraordinaire and UK Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson. Other great books to choose from are: *The Day of the Dreader* by Cressida Cowell, *Winnie Flies Again* by Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul and Holly Webb's *Magic Molly: The Clever Little Kitten*.

As well as events all around Ireland, World Book Day will unveil its first literary online festival 'The Biggest Book Show on Earth', featuring some of children's best-loved authors. A new app, featuring digital-only downloads from popular writers will also be available.

Visit www.worldbookday.com/ireland for more information and watch out for a World Book Day competition in the next issue of *InTouch*.

