

Teaching Pieces from the *Music for Children* Volumes
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Dr. Paul Cribari


pcribari@msn.com

paulcribari.com


“Winter is Here” (Dance, lassie, do) *Music for Children – Volume II*, p. 24, n. 6

Winter is here. My favorite time of year.
Bundled up and playing, snowball fights and skating.
Winter is here!
Come on! Let's go! Time to play outside!

We started this piece by singing while moving in circles. After talking about the various movement options available to us, we started to create a simple dance. This was also an opportunity to sing the song a number of times – embedding the melody in the memory.



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With the melody in place, we created body percussion to the following rhythm:



After moving to the instruments, we transferred both of these ideas to the barred percussion. Ultimately, this rhythm became the following melody:



In both sections, participants were given a voice in the orchestration, and the creation of the accompaniment parts. Improvisations were further added to give participants a chance to create melodies of their own. This might also be done in small groups as a composition project!

Today we learned two pieces from the *Music for Children* volumes using a variety of modalities. In the first piece, we learned the melody through a combination of **singing** and **dancing**. The next piece was prepared through **body percussion** before moving to the instruments. Once at the barred percussion, the body percussion melody was taught through sequential **processing**. The melody of the first piece, having already been taught was reinforced through a **literacy/reading** activity that included the notation and Curwen hand signs. Finally, the accompaniments were added through guided **improvisation**. It is through this multi-faceted approach that these beautiful pieces can be made.