

Book Reviews/Critiques de recueils et DVDs pédagogiques

Reach For a Star (Book 1)

By Marcelline Moody

Berandol Music Ltd., 2008, teacher manual and CD\$ 70, student pages and CD \$55.

Reviewed by Anne Massicotte

Not another recorder method...Yes! And we should all be grateful! Marcelline Moody has written a truly innovative book. The teacher's guide and CD cover ten units, seven of them spent on learning BAG and three on low E and D. The imagination deployed here is in the true spirit of an Orff approach: movement activities, body percussion, songs, circle games, and dances. The sequential approach suits grades 3 or 4 perfectly, but could also be adapted for older children. Notation on the staff comes after much experimentation with the soprano recorder and with rhythm patterns. The manual also includes evaluation tasks.

The student sheets and CD are reproducible, and include theory work and flash cards. The repertoire is varied: spirituals, traditional folk songs, and lovely original compositions by M. Moody. The CD accompaniments usually include one version on the recorder and one without it. The beautiful arrangements are played on acoustic instruments (yes!): piano, violin, bass, percussion, xylophones.

In my view, beginning and experienced teachers alike will treasure this unique and dynamic resource. Thank you, Marcelline, we will all be waiting eagerly for Book 2!

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