

Singing & Music Appreciation deserve a list of compiled resources! So here is a list for your consideration. (Let me know what else you discover!)

Singing

While many kids pick up singing naturally from singing at church and in play, our society just doesn't sing as much as it used to. An easy way to combat that is to pick a weekly hymn, sing nursery rhymes, and simply demonstrate to kids that adults sing, too. (You can look [here](#) for suggestions about weekly hymns.)

Sometimes boys (and men) think singing is more for women, but that's simply not true. When cultivated, boys (and men) even have larger singing ranges. They might just prefer to sing different types of songs. (Here's [one](#) of many online articles on boys' change of voice and possible songs to sing at various ages.)

By the way, CPH offers [a lot of song books and children's hymnals](#).

Singing Instruction

If you want to teach a child how to sing, you could purchase "[Singing Made Easy](#)." It's easy to follow and includes stretches and breathing exercises. It's basic enough for very young ages but applicable to all ages. (It's recently changed venues so right now only level 1 is available. I think they are all scheduled to become available through [Music in our Homeschool](#) within 2021.)

Another common tactic is to *play* music in hopes that your kids will learn to sing along. If you want a focused approach, here are some options: a) nursery rhymes, b) the catechism, hymns, or Sunday school-type songs, c) classical music, or d) an eclectic assortment of folk, patriotic, Bible, camp, etc.

There is a *whole lot* you can google, but here are a few popular places to start.

Nursery Rhymes

- [Wee Sing Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies](#) incorporates sung nursery rhymes into a story "on the way to London town" for King Cole's birthday party.
- [Wiggles Nursery Rhymes](#) (Kids might love their Australian accents!)

Lutheran Options

- CPH offers quite a few CDs, including several sung by, or aimed toward, children:
 - [Sing the Faith: The Small Catechism Set to Music](#)
 - [Little Ones Sing Praise](#) 4-CD Set
 - [And My Mouth Will Declare Your Praise](#) by the children's choir of St. Paul's Lutheran (Fort Wayne, IN)

By the way, I love [Evenings & Morning: Music of Lutheran Daily Prayer](#). Sometimes I put it on just to calm everyone down—myself included—or to start things off on a good foot. Various hymn CDs are great, too, of course.

Classical

- [Maestro Classics](#) is a great resource for music and children, including lots of classical resources.
- [Classical Kids](#): Each disc combines music, history and dramatic story-telling to introduce children to the composers and their music.
- There is also a website, [Classics for Kids](#), which features a monthly composer, games, and other musical resources.

Eclectic: Folk, Patriotic, Bible, etc.

If you want to google, here's a list of genres to consider:

- Boy scout songs
- Camp songs
- Folk songs
- Girl scout songs
- Sea shanties
- Work songs, etc.

Common Companies:

- [Wee Sing](#) has a lot of books & music for children, including two with common American Sunday school songs. The songs tend to be protestant and not necessarily include all the words.
- [Cedarhurst Kids](#) is a group that has CDs and DVDs of kids singing, again, common American Sunday school songs.

Silly Songs

If you want to incorporate silly songs in hopes that your kids will sing along, you can consider things like [Beethoven's Wig: Sing Along Symphonies](#) or [Do Re Mi on his Toe Leg Knee](#).

Music Appreciation

Music lessons and field trips go a long way to cultivating music appreciation. You can also check out videos online for ballets, musicals, and concerts. [The Snowman](#) is a 26-minute, wordless book with beautiful music. You can also find other classic children's videos like *Peter and the Wolf*.

Books (Youngest to Oldest)

- [Kloria books](#) are great hymn books for younger children!
- [Can You Hear It?](#) After a brief introduction to instruments, there is a piece of art paired with a song. Children are instructed to listen for certain things.
- [Sing Me a Story: The Metropolitan Opera's Book of Opera Stories for Children](#). There are only stories, but they are helpful before watching an opera.

Coursework Options

Book-Based Courses

There are various music appreciation studies out there, including:

- [*Meet the Great Composers*](#): Short sessions on the lives, times and music of the great composers. Includes 17 units. Each unit is about four pages long with another page or two in worksheets. There are [two book sets](#) currently available.
- [Music Appreciation I](#) (Grades 3+): 26 chapters with tests
- [Discovering Music: 300 Years of Interaction in Western Music, Arts, History](#) (Grades 8+): This is a multi-sensory approach connecting music with visual arts, history, and Western culture from 1600 to 1914. (I think the author is Roman Catholic, fwiw.)
- [Early Sacred Music: From the Temple Through the Middle Ages](#) (Grades 8+)

Online-Based Unit Studies & Individual Study Guides

Unit studies I know of include:

- [Here is a link to Karen Caroe's free music unit study](#). It is for 4 to 6 weeks, including music theory.
- [Here are a whole bunch of free homeschool music curriculum guides](#) from Maestro Classics. Basically, you click on a title like "The Nutcracker" and then it takes you to a page with links and information on ballet, history of how Christmas is celebrated around the world, a museum of nutcrackers, the science of nutcrackers, plus a little explanation of fairy tales and different written versions of the Nutcracker, craft ideas, etc. So pretty great!
- [Classical Kids Music Lessons](#)

Here's a link to some quick help on [Musical Morals and Themes](#). Basically, it lists a piece, includes a moral, Bible verses, and some famous quotations.

Finally, [here](#) is a link to [Music in Our Homeschool](#). That site offers reviews of music products, free music lessons and printables, tips, etc. [Here is that site's list of recommendations for music education in your homeschool](#).

Online Class options

[Wittenberg Academy](#) offers three high school classes: Music I, II, and III, in which students learn terminology, notation, and concepts of tonality through Bach chorales.

Music Theory

And, because I can, here are some websites to help with music theory:

- [EarMaster.com: Understanding Basic Music Theory](#)
- [MusicTheory.net](#)
- [Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People](#)
- [SimplifyingTheory.com](#)

<https://www.lutheranhomeschool.com/product/singing-music-appreciation/>