

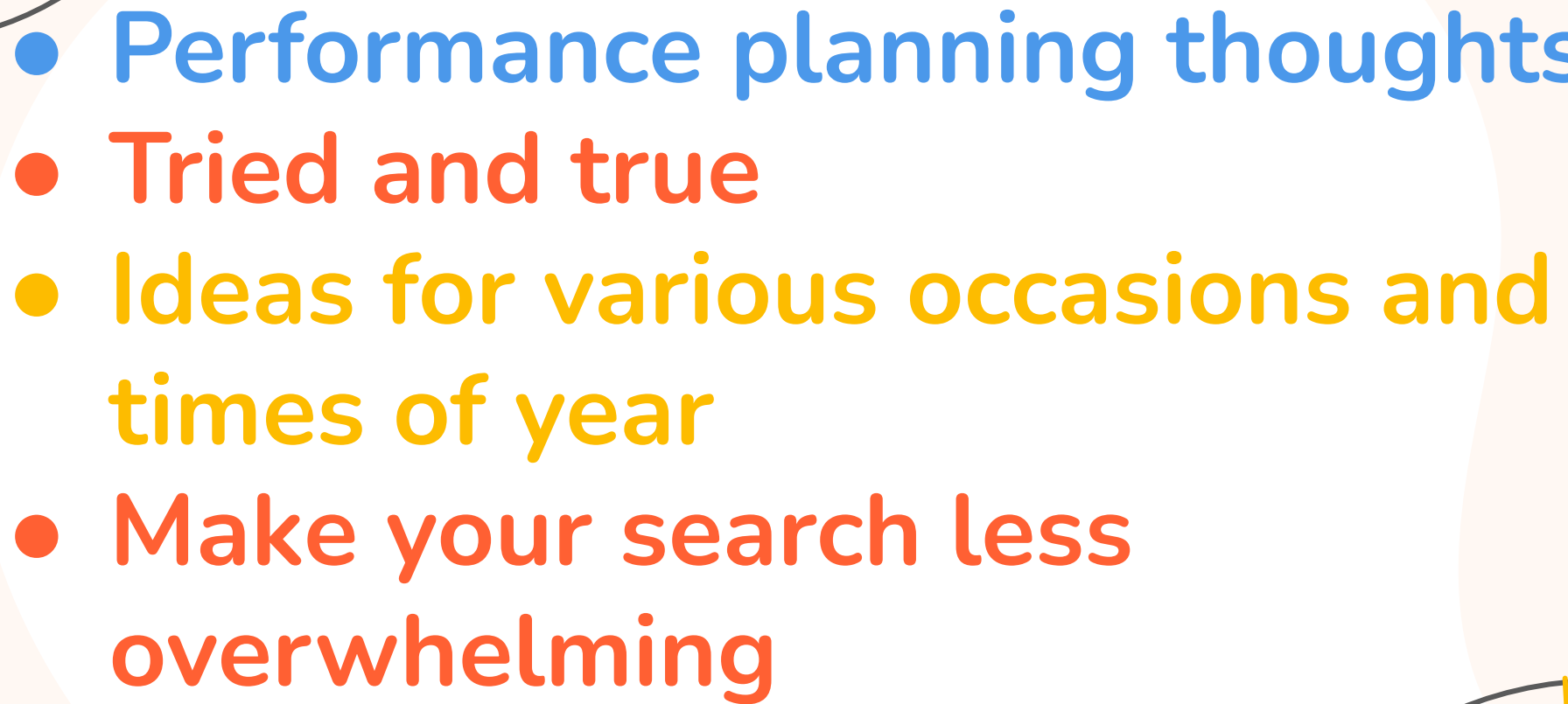
The background of the slide features a light cream color with a large, faint circular graphic. Two children are depicted in a jumping pose. On the left, a child with dark hair, wearing an orange shirt and dark pants, is jumping with arms outstretched. On the right, a child with blonde hair, wearing a blue shirt and dark pants, is also jumping with arms outstretched. Floating around the children are several musical notes on staves. The notes are in various colors: blue, yellow, and red. Some are eighth notes, some are quarter notes, and some are beamed together. The staves are black and curved, following the circular theme of the background.

# **On With the Show!**

**Ideas for Assemblies, Concerts and Special Days**

**Joyce Holoboff  
2025**

**[joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca)**

- 
- Performance planning thoughts
  - Tried and true
  - Ideas for various occasions and times of year
  - Make your search less overwhelming



# Joyce Holoboff

- 33 years (yikes!) with Wolf Creek Public Schools
- Current assignment is K-3 Music and Junior High band
- I love
  - Making music with a group
  - Coffee - the gas in my tank!
  - Popcorn
  - Fitness and health
  - Reading cookbooks - and sometimes I actually make something :)



**It's all about the  
JOY**



# So many choices !



Dramatize, accompany,  
or add sounds effects  
to a story



Just Sing! for the Seasons  
and Festivals and Holidays  
unit is a good place to start



What Children Learn  
from Performing  
poster!

# Concert Planning

- Concert Planning Unit - **guiding questions**
- Backwards Planning
- TIME FRAME
- Available help
  - Opportunity to practice in the performance venue
  - Keep it simple (student success vs. brilliant performance)
  - Expect the unexpected!

TIP - mark out the stage dimensions with tape on the floor in the music room. You can practice what it will look like and where everyone will stand (and take photos so you will remember) even before you get to the venue.

# Where to begin... Units



# Programs and Musicals



**MUSICPLAY ONLINE** THEMES & VARIATIONS

All Languages ▾ e.g. "Grade 4 Learning Modules" Search → Dashboard ▾

Unit Category: Programs & Musicals Content Type: Unit + Add Filter Clear All Filters

Display As: [List Icon] [Grid Icon] Sort by: Default ▾

### Unit Category

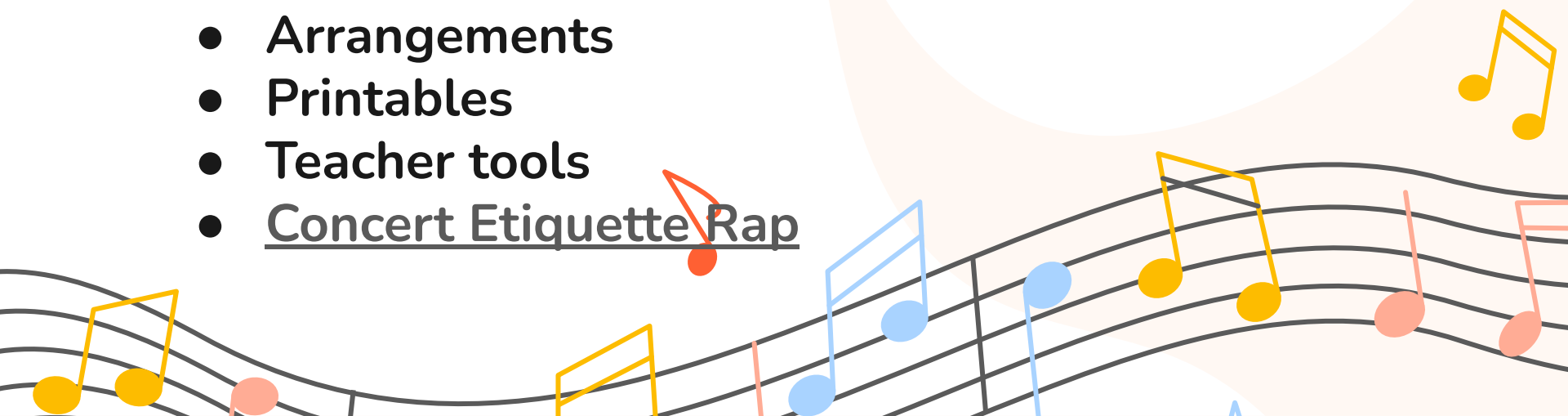
- ☐ Dance & Move
- ☐ Festivals & Holidays
- ☐ Listening Units
- ☐ Instruments
- ☒ Programs & Musicals
- ☐ Theory
- ☐ Games & Centers
- ☐ Our Musical World
- ☐ Orff
- ☐ Literacy
- ☐ Careers in Music

### Programs & Musicals

Unit	Unit Category	Creator
EN American Song: A Patriotic Celebration	Programs & Musicals	
EN Basketball Performance Ideas	Programs & Musicals	
EN Best Pet Show Ever	Programs & Musicals	
EN Big Dreams, a Musical Revue	Programs & Musicals	
EN BINGO	Programs & Musicals	
EN Bunnies, The Musical!	Programs & Musicals	
EN Christmas Cookies	Programs & Musicals	
EN Cold Snap	Programs & Musicals	



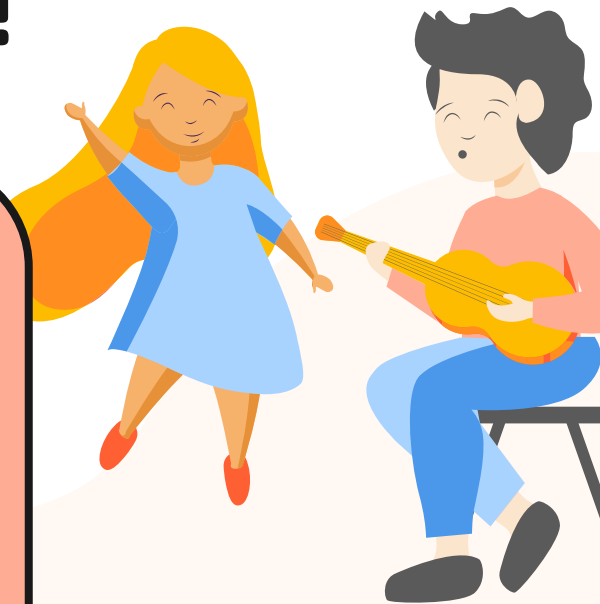
# Many options for teaching and presentation eg, Rain Rain

- Accompaniment track
  - Videos
  - Projectables - I like the “Lyrics” videos
  - Interactives
  - Arrangements
  - Printables
  - Teacher tools
  - Concert Etiquette Rap
- 

# Hot tip from John Jacobson !

*For a program with dialogue - project the dialogue on a wall or screen behind the performers. The audience will still know what is being said, even if the speaker makes a mistake, doesn't speak clearly, etc.*

*And they'll maybe get the jokes!!!*







# Fall/ Harvest/ Thanksgiving

- Los Machetes - harvest song from Mexico
- Autumn, Vivaldi - plates, scarves (fun dramatization)
- Turkey Tango - from Alphabet Action songs

## Hallowe'en

- Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything
- Monster Mash Cup Game
- Instruments - Ghost of Tom boomwhacker chords, ukulele
  - Old Woman All Skin and Bones - recorder, uke, guitar





## November 11 unit

- Songs of Peace
- Unity songs

Also - recorded versions of  
"Last Post" and "Reveille"

- In Flanders' Fields - black light performance  
(see last slide for resources)
- Sample Scripts for assemblies
- Sing for Peace (easy choir song); also in French
- Rhythm Band - Holiday Concert Ideas
  - Shine a Light for Peace - teach chorus/verse or AB form
  - Just One Candle - also ASL sign language

NEW !!  
"Thank You"  
song



# If it has the word “light” in it... Bring out the lights!!

Finger lights

Tea lights

Battery-operated candles

Black lights

Literally anything that lights up!!

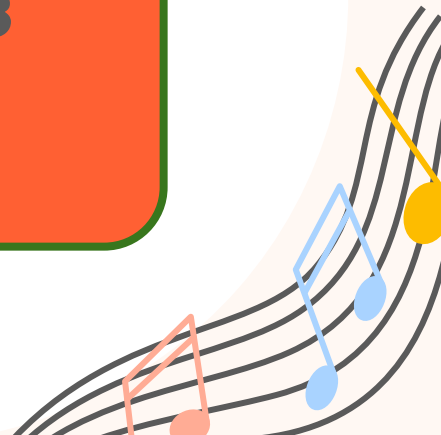




**Time saving tip!**  
*Teach your class/choir a  
“peace” or “unity” song for  
November 11, then use that  
song again at Christmas*

*For example,*

**This year our Grade 3  
Choir will be doing  
Children Together**





## Where to find Christmas resources:

- ★ **Advent unit - sacred**
- ★ **Christmas Line Dances**
- ★ **Christmas Sacred unit**
- ★ **Christmas Santa unit**
- ★ **Christmas Secular unit**
- ★ **Nutcracker**
- ★ **Programs and Musicals**

# Units - Programs and Musicals

## Christmas Cookies

John Jacobson

- Performed with Grade 2's and 3's (about 100 students)
- Revised and much simplified kids' script, “readers’ theatre” style
- Simple costumes with fewer cookie groups
  - Bakers
  - Cookies - Christmas trees, Christmas bells, gingerbread boys and girls, chocolate chip, fortune cookies, sandwich cookies
  - Puppies

“Who wants a cookie?” song is just the best!



# Christmas Cookie costumes



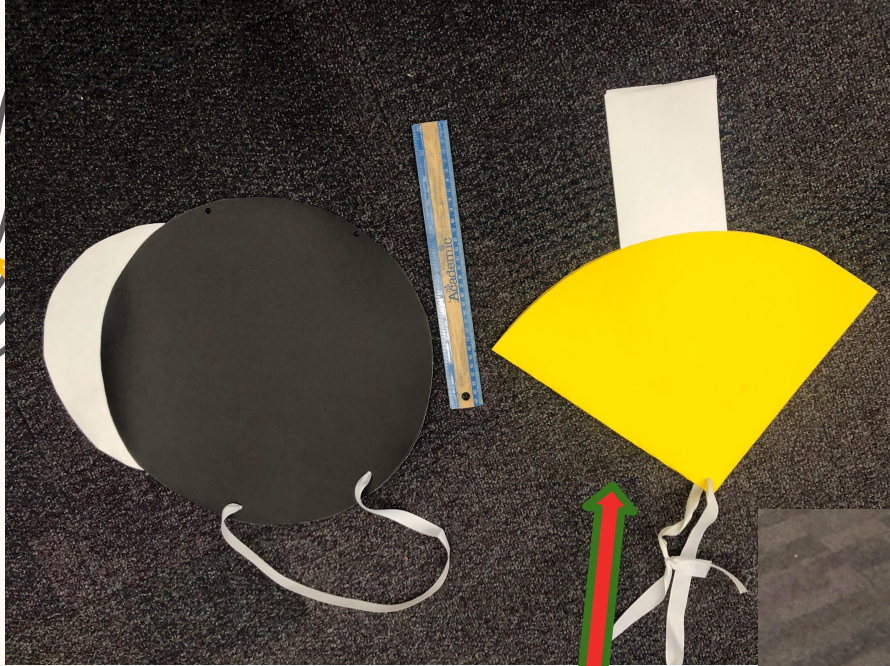
Christmas cookies - trees and bells

Chef hats - Amazon  
Aprons - Dollarama

Puppies - headbands  
Chocolate chip cookies

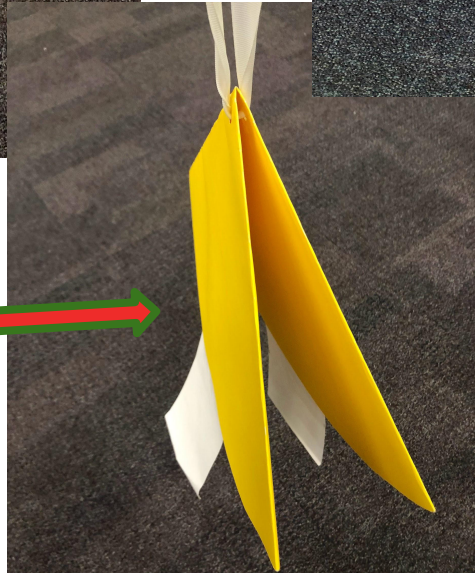






Sandwich cookies

Fortune  
Cookies



Gingerbread cookies -  
boys and girls

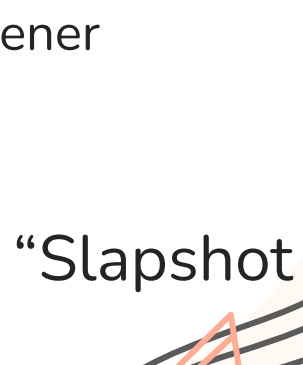
Helpful Hint!  
*Don't be afraid to simplify  
John's choreography!!*







# More Christmas Ideas

- **Nutcracker** - find in Units: Listening
    - Instruments, movements, plates, lights, scarves
    - Program idea: “Nutcracker Double Double”
    - Finish with Artie’s “The Platecracker”
  - Many **John Jacobson musicals!**
  - One-stop shopping - everything you need is there!!
    - Starbucks - song “Shine” is a good concert opener
    - Gnome for the Holidays
    - NEW!! “It’s a Boy”
  - **Denise Gagne classics** - “Survival Santa”; “Slapshot Santa”; “The Best Christmas Gift”
- 



# Christmas Sacred unit

- ★ Advent Unit
  - ★ Traditional carols
  - ★ Play-alongs
  - ★ Listening activities
- 



## St. Patrick's Day unit

- Connaughtman's Rambles rhythm play along or body percussion
- Leprechaun improvisation

Videos are useful as you can change the speed!

## Friendship/ Pink Shirt

- A Place in the Choir unit
- Songs for a Brighter World unit
- "Friends Forever" song



# Easter and Spring

## Easter unit

- Old Mister Rabbit - story with instrumentals also Cute game
- YouTube recommendation - Laurie Berkner band - "I Know a Chicken" (younger kids)
- John Jacobson "Bunnies" musical
- Little Rabbit Foo Foo
- Rain, Rain




# More Spring ideas ...



## Spring Unit - Bonus: Literacy connections !

- Rain Rain - kids demo
  - Play with Orff, Boomwhackers plus metals
- Plant a Rainbow - poem; add B section with body percussion or instruments
- Rain Storm story - student generated

## Mother's Day

- Mom, You're the Best
  - That's My Mom (younger grades)
  - Gitsigakomim
- 

# Spring (or anytime) musicals

- Bingo - Jacobson
- Best Pet Show Ever - K-3 musical - Gagne
- Meow! - The Most Excellent Tale of Rover and Mewliet - Jacobson
- Big Dreams - musical revue - could make a good farewell program
- Just Sing
- Razza- majazz
- High Seas

## Earth Day - April 22 !

- Earth Day unit
- **One Planet musical** - by Denise Gagne

# June/ Graduation/ Farewell/ Thank You

## Retirement

- ★ Thank You, Teacher
- ★ We Will, We Will  
Miss You - my  
adaptation

## PreK and K Graduation

- PreK Grad
- We Did It
- Let Your Light Shine  
(add lights !!)

## Volunteers - Our Hats Off to You

## Campfire unit

# Show off some Literacy connections !

- [Storybook Lessons in MusicPlay pdf](#)
- [Mortimer - 3 ways - rhythm instruments, Orff, djembes/drums](#)
- [Kindergarten Spring Literacy unit](#)
- [Alphabet Action songs](#)
- [Old Mister Rabbit](#)
- [Chicken Little](#)
- [Little Rabbit Foo Foo](#)



# Anytime ideas


- Cookies - the Musical
- Bucket Drumming and other instruments
- Folk dances - La Raspa, Seven Jumps, Los Machetes
- Basketball Performance Ideas unit
- Kickball Performance Ideas unit
- Listening activities using plates, scarves, finger lights, and more! Carnival of the Animals - Listening With Props and Movement unit

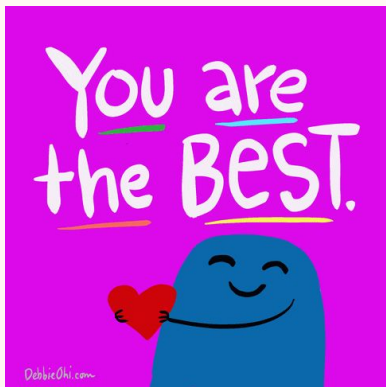
## TIP !!

Create a generic theme to tie together individual selections, eg) Christmas Fun (jokes); Merry Rockin' Christmas



## When it's all over...

- Breathe, enjoy the accolades, celebrate with a beverage (you've earned it!)
  - **Take 5 minutes to note things that you will keep and change**
  - Student assessment
    - Use a rehearsal to assess effort and performance - I like to take a video
    - Student self-assessments
      - Evaluate a Performance worksheet - upper elementary
      - Concert Performance assessment - Grade 3 and up
      - Concert Self-Evaluation worksheet - lower grades
      - Concert Star and Wish - Holoboff
- 



# Thanks!

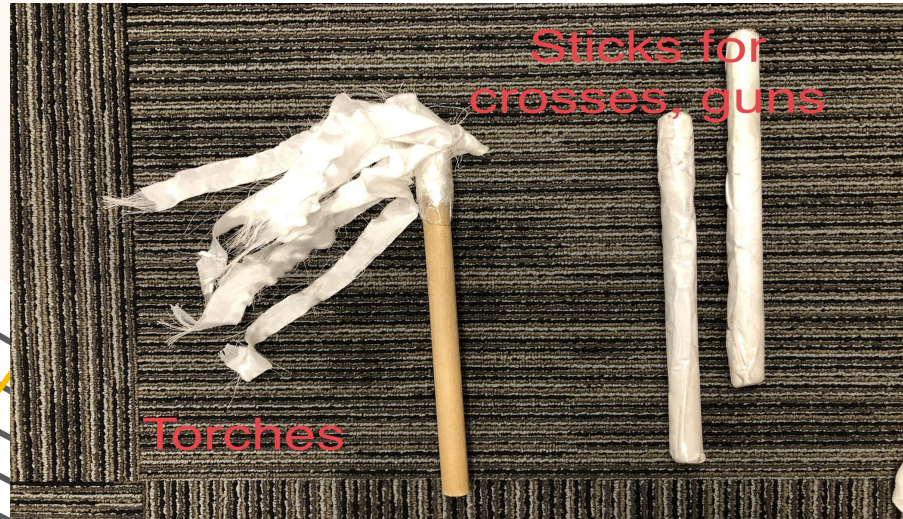
Do you have any questions?

**[joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca)**

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# “In Flanders Fields” resources:

- Lyrics and movement suggestions

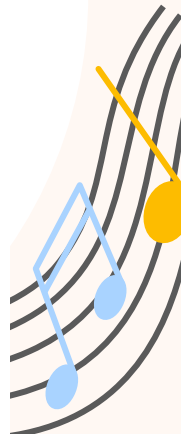




## Concert Planning Guide:

### Before Concert:

Task:	Who:	When to be completed:
Concert Expectation Meeting		
Book Concert Dates		
Book Venue		
Select Music		
Order Music		
Communicate Concert Dates		
Stage Rental		
Chair Rental		
Sound Equipment Rental		
Costume Planning		
Prop Planning		
Backdrop Planning		
Measure Stage		
Check Fire Code		
Venue Set-up Email		
Communicate Gym Closures		
Book Accompanist		
Instruments Needed		






## **Concert Planning Guide:**

### **During Concert Preparation:**

<b>Task:</b>	<b>Who:</b>	<b>When to be completed:</b>
Prepare Choreography		
Film Practice Videos		
Auditions		
Script Re-writes		
Costume Preparations		
Prop Organization		
Ticket Communication		
Concert Week Schedule		
Costume Communication		
Assign Parts		
Print Scripts		
Tape Stage/Assign Blocking		
Assign Props		
Microphone Practice		
Transitions		
Prepare Paper Program		







## Concert Planning Guide: Before Concert Week:

Task:	Who:	When to be completed:
Stage Set-Up		
Sound System Set-Up		
Lights Set-Up		
Chairs Set-Up		
Instrument Set-Up		
Tape Cords/Hazards		
Emergency Supplies		
Props Set-Up		
Background Set-up		
Schedule Communication		
Print Programs		






## **Concert Planning Guide:**

### **During/After Concert:**

<b>Task:</b>	<b>Who:</b>	<b>When to be completed:</b>
Sound		
Lights		
Runners		
Props		
Transitions		
Supervision		
Video		
Ticket Takers/Reservations		
Programs (Hand-out)		
Clean-Up		
Post Online		





## Christmas Concert Reflection

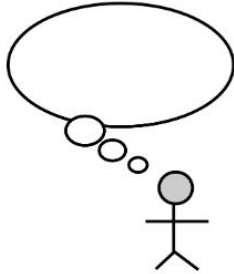
Name \_\_\_\_\_



One thing that I liked in the Christmas Concert was:

---

---



One thing that I wish about the Christmas Concert is:

---

---



## Sing for Peace - D. Gagne

Sing out around the world.

Sing out around the world.

Sing out around the world  
and let your voice be heard.

Sing for peace, (Sing for peace,)

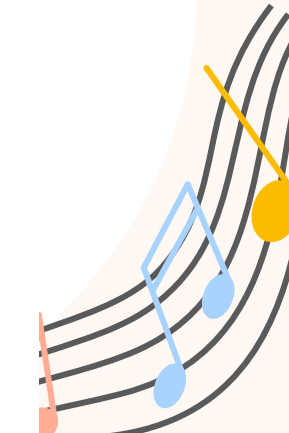
Sing for peace. (Sing for peace.)

Sing for peace for children everywhere.

Sing for peace, (Sing for peace,)

Sing for peace. (Sing for peace.)

Sing for peace for  
children everywhere.



## STAR BUCKS

What do you know?  
It's time for the show!  
Get up and go  
it's time to raise the curtain!

See how they wait!  
So we can't be late!  
Gotta be great!  
Oh we know that's for certain!

## "Shine"

From "Starbucks" musical

## STAR BUCKS

This is our night  
So show them our light and shine!  
Our light is bright  
So let's get it right and shine!

Shine, shine, shine!  
Shine, shine, shine!  
All the time!  
We know that we can shine!



## STAR BUCKS

This isn't Broadway, But this holiday,  
We'll take you away and put you in the spirit.

We'll give it our all,  
no matter how small,  
*Solo: We practiced all fall*  
All: So you are gonna hear it!

## STAR BUCKS

**This is our night  
So show them our light and shine!  
Our light is bright  
So let's get it right and shine!**

**Shine, shine, shine!  
Shine, shine, shine!  
All the time!  
We know that we can shine! (5X)**

