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Selections From Star Wars For Recorder (Music Is Fun)



Synopsis

Written for easy recorder, this book features big, easy-to-read notes, a beginner's guide to playing the recorder, and a clear, simple introduction to reading music. Seven of the most well-known Star Wars themes and melodies are included. Titles: Star Wars (Main Theme) * May the Force Be with You ("The Force Theme") * The Imperial March ("Darth Vader's Theme") * Princess Leia's Theme * Duel of the Fates * Yoda's Theme * The Throne Room.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I got this for my fourth grade son and his friends, to encourage his recorder playing. I think he's pretty excited about it, so I am hopeful that it will work out for him. There are features of the book that I think are very helpful for early beginners who are learning musical notation at the same time as the instrument (like my son). The notes are in large print, with the name of the note written inside the head of each note. Very helpful! Also, there are no key signatures, and each note is written with its sharp or flat, as required. This is sort of helpful. Most of the pieces are cluttered with sharps and/or flats, which is kind of intimidating, even though in most cases it just means the piece is arranged in a key other than C. I can see, though, how a kid who is new to reading music might find it a useful crutch. But it does not much help musical understanding. Normally when you see an accidental it means something has happened harmonically in the music, and when you're just going along in your main key the music looks plain and clean. Some of the rhythms are a little simplified,

which is generally good for beginners with basic reading skills, and if they know the music they can correct the rhythms themselves. Also there is a pretty good technical section at the beginning of the book that briefly explains recorder technique and fingering and the rudiments of music notation, and provides two very simple tunes to practice on. You could theoretically use this as a stand-alone primer for starting recorder. Overall, though, I think the difficulty of the pieces is a bit high for kids who are assumed to have so little musical experience that they benefit from the above beginner-oriented features. Yoda's theme is the easiest, as it involves very simple rhythms, and only a one-octave C scale augmented with F#. The Duel of the Fates is also fairly accessible, using only the first register (up to D), and the new note of Bb as well as F#. It would probably be helpful if the songs were arranged in this way, in order of difficulty, but they are not (those are #6 and #5 respectively). I would put "May the force be with you" next, which is arranged in D minor with just one octave of range and the Bb the only "tricky" note. But with a lot of skips, it is actually pretty challenging for a beginner. Princess Leia's theme adds Db, and also requires only the first register. Like the "force" theme, it is a lovely, lyrical tune, which a motivated beginner can probably master with some effort. The Star Wars main theme is arranged in the key of F, goes up into the second register and involves big intervals and triplet rhythms, so now we're getting into challenging territory for kids. Still playable, though. Good challenge for kids, who will surely WANT very badly to play this tune. But the Imperial March is downright hard, and it is made harder by the choice of arranging it in the key of Eb. I find it MUCH easier to play on the recorder transposed down a half step into D, which would also be a lot easier to read. (On the other hand, if you want to do a duet with someone playing a Bb instrument like trumpet or clarinet, Eb is good because the other person would be playing in F, which is easy). By the time your beginning recorder student is playing chromatic scales in both the first and second registers, and reading all kinds of accidentals and dotted eighth-sixteenth rhythms, maybe a little transposing is not going to throw them one bit. I didn't mention "Throne room," which as little more than a reprise of the force theme seems like a waste of space.

I love these songs and love that it's put together, but there's no way these are "easy." I teach recorder, and there are accidentals like crazy, of course. But more troubling are the high notes! I can't hardly get them out without a terrible squeak, let alone a beginner.

I LOVE THIS!!! When my kid brought home that cursed recorder, I cried. Really, I did. I was doing my usual Star Wars stuff browsing when I came across this. If I'm going to have to listen to that

stupid recorder, I might as well listen to it play songs I actually WANT to hear! I'll gladly listen to anything John Williams over "Hot Cross Buns" any day! I highly recommend this to any of my fellow geeks/nerds with kids :)

Well, I didn't love it but apparently my 7-year old grandson does. They play recorder in school (second year now) and he and his friends are happy with new music.

This is not easy, beginner music. This is easy, intermediate music. I still can't play most of the songs. Too many flats.

I'm a newbie with recorder, while this has simple melodies to play, I am having a hard time hitting the higher notes. This doesn't say much about the music, but rather my skill level. If you are a star wars fan and already play the recorder, you may enjoy this book.

Silly gift for my daughter that loves the corny youtubers that use recorders. She was over the moon with it and no it does not come with the recorder, but hey you can buy them anywhere for under \$10!

This book does, in fact, have Star Wars music. My only problem with it is that it doesn't change key signatures, all of the flats/sharps are marked as accidentals. This may make it easier for beginners to follow but it teaches bad habits to music readers. Overall, though, for the price, it's good. I plan to use this to teach recorder and music to a 4 year old.

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