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Elemental music is never just music. It’s bound up with movement, dance and speech, and so it is a form of music in which one must participate, in which one is involved not as a listener but as a co-performer.

Carl Orff

Foreword

Those who study child development have long understood the important role of play in a youngster’s growth. Play is a child’s ‘work’, analogous to the nine-to-five careers that so many of us engage in throughout our adult lives. Through play, children imitate, explore and create - absent of the stresses associated with a real job - weaving both fantasy and reality into a tapestry of joyful cognition.

In *We’re Orff 2!*, author Tamara O’Brien, teaming up with lyricist Mark Carthew, draws upon her experience as composer, performer and pedagogue. Together, they have assembled a collection of songs, pieces, dances and activities that carefully develop musical skills and concepts through the idiom of play. Tamara and Mark skilfully incorporate the primary musical media of the *Orff Schulwerk* approach to music education into lessons that clearly lay out a path to skill development through active music-making. The children are guided in their understanding of these original works through imitation, exploration and creation/improvisation - the foundations of the elemental music education approach of Carl Orff (1895-1982) and Gunild Keetman (1904-1990).

Throughout the volume, both teacher and student are led through the conceptual ideas of Orff and Keetman’s *Schulwerk*. We find the use of ostinato accompaniments, the development of small forms and canonic processes, the creation of movement activities, a variety of body percussion patterns and the exploration of non-traditional sound sources all designed to engage the developing music student in their assimilation of an age-appropriate musical vocabulary and syntax.

Tamara and Mark support each lesson with modern technology to provide aural and visual examples. Whether the teacher has been trained in Orff Schulwerk or not, the intuitive flow of each lesson sequence is readily understandable, thanks to the extremely clear directions, visual cues, graphics and uncluttered layout provided by the authors. The materials are readily accessible to creative teachers willing to engage themselves in the same play that their children accept so readily. You will find that the activities in *We’re Orff 2!* will serve as joyful starting points for teachers of music and movement in the creation of their own lessons based on these models.

Have fun!

Steven Calantropio
Education Director,
The American Orff-Schulwerk Association
January, 2013
How does *We’re Orff!* work?

**The units**
In this resource there are 5 different units, suitable for middle primary classes. Each unit is its own entity and develops in its own way, in a step-by-step progression, but each unit follows the same Orff-Schulwerk Principles.

Each unit will take several weeks to work through. Progress at a pace that the class is comfortable with.

**The activities**
Each unit will work through a standard set of activities, in an order appropriate to its text. The activities will vary but will be drawn from the following:

> Movement, Body percussion, Speech, Singing, Instruments

Instrument work will utilise both untuned and tuned percussion, with the use of recorder in two units, and involve Rhythm, Melody, Ostinato, and/or Canon.

Each unit concludes with suggestions for drawing on the exploration and creative work done by the students to create a performance (*Putting it Together*).

**The techniques**
Within each of the activities, the following techniques are used:

> Imitation, Exploration, Improvisation/creating

### Activity icons
- Movement
- Body percussion
- Speech
- Singing
- Instruments
- Untuned percussion
- Tuned percussion
- Putting it Together
- Recorder

### Technique icons
- Imitation
- Exploration
- Improvisation/creating

### Audio/video support
- Indicates accompanying CD demo/backing track
- Indicates accompanying DVD demonstration
I’VE GOT A RHYTHM!

I’ve Got a Rhythm!
Words by Mark Carthew
Music by Tamara O’Brien

My name is Toby here’s what I do. I’ve got an action coming at you.

Your name is Toby here’s what you do. You’ve got an action we’ll do it too.

MOVEMENT

**Imitation**
Teacher performs actions; students imitate.

**Exploration**
Teacher chooses solo students to create actions; class imitates.

SPEECH

**Imitation**
Teacher says whole verse.
Teacher says each of the 4 phrases; students echo.
Teacher says the whole piece; students echo.

Teacher now says the first 2 phrases and students respond with next 2 phrases.

NOTE: An example can be seen in the DVD selection I’ve Got a Rhythm: speech & singing.
I’VE GOT A RHYTHM!

**SINGING**

**Imitation**

Teacher sings whole verse; students echo.

NOTE: An example can be seen in the DVD selection *I’ve Got a Rhythm: speech & singing*.

**MOVEMENT**

**Imitation**

Teacher performs actions; students imitate.

NOTE: The CD track *I’ve Got a Rhythm – backing* can be used.

An example can be seen in the DVD selection *I’ve Got a Rhythm: actions*.

**Exploration**

When students are confident with words, teacher chooses solo students to lead with actions.

NOTE: An example can be seen in the DVD selection *I’ve Got a Rhythm: actions*. 
Tamara O’Brien
Tamara is an award-winning composer for the screen as well as a talented and engaging educator. She has won a string of notable awards for her writing. She gives lectures in both Film Music and activities in the Orff approach. Tamara runs her own Early Childhood Music classes, teaches at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Open Academy with children 3-10yrs, and runs adult classes in Scoring for the Screen. She writes music for a variety of projects ranging from documentaries to animations and online game trailers. www.tamaraoibrien.com & www.musicforchildren.com.au

Dr Mark Carthew
Mark is an author and educator well known for his books and series exploring wordplay, music, movement and drama. His award-winning picture books include Five Little Owls and The Gobbling Tree. His anthology with music CD Can You Keep a Secret? Timeless rhymes to share and treasure was noted by the Children’s Book Council of Australia as a Notable Book, Early Childhood. Mark has been awarded a prestigious 2013 Creative Time Residential Fellowship by the May Gibbs Children’s Literature Trust and is currently a lecturer and the program Coordinator Primary Education at Swinburne University of Technology. www.markcarthew.com.au

Praise for We’re Orff! (beginning-lower primary)
This delightful smorgasbord of songs for preschool to lower primary students has obviously been prepared by an experienced Orff-trained Music educator. The DVD supplied with the book shows Tamara O’Brien working with children and clearly demonstrates how to teach various aspects of the five Units of Work included. The relaxed style of Tamara’s teaching leaves one in no doubt of how to enjoy presenting the material in the book. For the teacher new to the Orff Approach or the experienced campaigner there is plenty of scope to work with some fresh, engaging repertoire. A sample video of Tamara teaching her students can be found at www.bushfirepress.com/orff

The musical ideas, including movement, body percussion, speech, singing and playing instruments, are simple enough for the younger children to master, and in true Orff style allow for various ability levels. Opportunities for working with melodic and non-melodic instruments using rhythm, melody ostinato, borduns and canon abound, and space for imitation, exploration and improvisation are also included. Extension and performance ideas are found under the heading ‘Putting it Together’.

Lynne Burt, Musette (VOSA)

Join the Orff Resources Facebook group
Share questions and ideas, be notified of events, PD and resources. This is also a closed group - making it much ‘safer’ to post your audio, video, lessons or work samples. Show your Orff community what you and your students are doing. Come and share your Orff experiences. www.facebook.com/groups/orffresources/ or simply like us on Facebook at www.bushfirepress.com
CD TRACKLIST

I’VE GOT A RHYTHM
1. I’ve Got a Rhythm
2. I’ve Got a Rhythm – backing
3. I’ve Got a Rhythm – canon
4. I’ve Got a Rhythm – bass
5. I’ve Got a Rhythm – ostinato 1
6. I’ve Got a Rhythm – ostinato 2
7. I’ve Got a Rhythm – ostinato 3
8. I’ve Got a Rhythm – performance

CARAVAN
9. Caravan
10. Caravan – backing
11. Caravan – untuned instruments
12. Caravan – 1st phrase
13. Caravan – mallets
14. Caravan – melody sharing
15. Caravan – bass part
16. Caravan – 2nd bass part
17. Caravan – ostinato
18. Caravan – performance

BROOMSTICKS
19. Broomsticks
20. Broomsticks – canon

DOWN THE STREET
22. Down the street
23. Down the street – backing
24. Down the street – chant & body percussion
25. Down the Street – melody & body percussion
26. Down the street – bass part
27. Down the street – performance

IN THE BAG
28. In the Bag – melody
29. In the Bag – imitation
30. In the Bag – body percussion
31. In the Bag – imitation 2
32. In the Bag – untuned instruments
33. In the Bag – tuned instruments
34. In the Bag – tuned instruments 2
35. In the Bag – tuned instruments 3
36. In the Bag – bass part
37. In the Bag – exploration
38. In the Bag – performance
5 easy Orff-based units for middle primary

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Have fun!’

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Education Director,
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We’re Orff!

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Lynne Burt, Musette (VOSA)

Orff Beats

by Christoph Maubach and Star Sherret
Another great Orff resource