

TOP DOG

32 new children's songs
for home and school

Introduction

Why Top Dog?

Classroom singing is helpful for a variety of reasons: to create moments of leisure between periods of hard work; to reinforce the social bond among classmates; to work with the musical curriculum. Whatever the reason there's always a common intention: that the children enjoy the singing. They need to feel engaged by both the music and the lyrics. And they need to feel that they are musically challenged yet able to overcome that challenge.

The songs in Top Dog are created to fulfill these intentions. They are new, contemporary songs, with subjects and words that appeal to today's children, who will find it entertaining to sing pieces set to melodies and rhythms from different cultural backgrounds - an education in cultural diversity!

Some of the songs have games, gestures, or dances to accompany them, adding to the fun and providing starting points for performances.

Each song in Top Dog is presented with full lyrics and musical notation including chord symbols, for easy piano or guitar accompaniment.

Tips & Tricks

In the back of the book (page 71) there's a teachers' section with many suggestions for teaching the songs and performing them. Some songs can be sung in parts or as solos; some can be danced. These are simple activities that don't require a lot of preparation or material. There's room to adjust, simplify or elaborate.

The website www.topdogsongs.nl features all the songs in their full length and all the sing-a-long versions, making Top Dog a ready-to-use songbook for practical use.

To download the songs:

1. Go to www.topdogsongs.nl
2. Click 'Download the songs'
3. Enter the password: hedgehog
4. Follow the instructions.

