

may all eventually prove to be educationally valid ideas worthy of implementation; however, this book will displease those who want educational theories based upon sound scientific research. The authors frequently use personal testimony to support their claims and on page 70 explain that many of the teacher anecdotes are taken from teachers trained at the Michael Gurian Institute of Learning in Missouri. Since these teachers are trained at an educational institute founded by Michael Gurian, they may be trying to find experiences that support and more easily ignore experiences that negate the theory espoused by Gurian. The authors rarely cite specific studies when noting the research upon which claims are made. Charts exist as if fact; however, it is unclear what sources provide information for these charts. Yes, sources are listed in the back of the book, but it is never clear specifically where these sources are used within the text. On page 315, the authors state that some professionals believe there are no significant differences in brains between girls and boys, that some of their educational theory is based upon common sense, and that readers must use their intuition to decide if their educational theory is accurate. Centuries ago, intuition and common sense supported the notion that the universe was geocentric and not heliocentric. Teaching provides the structural underpinning for our society and should be based upon high standards of research, not solely upon intuition and common sense. The types of criticism that the authors found in works by others on gender differences most definitely abound in this book as well. Reader, beware.

— Beth Hayes

**Teaching Recorder
in the Music Classroom**

Fred Kersten
MENC

Whether you've been teaching recorder for years or you are just beginning, this book is a great addition to your library. Fred Kersten has taken on the challenge of presenting a comprehensive look at how the recorder can be taught in the music classroom. The book is well organized and easy to understand, and Mr. Kersten gives teachers the benefits of his research and experience for including this wonderful instrument in the classroom.

A few of the topics covered in the chapters include:

- Introducing the Recorder
- Selecting and Purchasing Recorders
- Recorder Basics
- The Recorder and the National Standards
- Teaching Tips for the Classroom

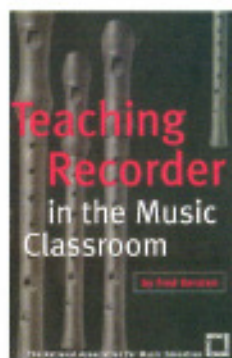
Other chapters deal with arranging for recorder ensembles, recorder literature, recorder beyond the elementary school classroom, demystifying the bass recorder, and a section dealing with the recorder in an Orff Schulwerk classroom. Kersten includes testimonials about programs, both elementary and secondary, that have met with great success. Additionally, he includes a small listing of resources for both literature and instruments.

The chapters on pedagogy are practical and should give teachers tips that will help make recorder instruction successful in their programs. The chapter dealing with the National Standards seems a stretch at times, but it provides good ideas on how recorder instruction fulfills many of the standards. Case studies are included for programs that go beyond the elementary school classroom and will give anyone in secondary education the opportunity to see how recorder instruction may be a viable part of any music program.

The chapter dealing with the recorder in the Orff classroom is written by Konnie Saliba. Many of the pedagogical suggestions are clear and helpful and reflect strategies one would see in an Orff Schulwerk lesson. It would have been helpful to include some background about how the recorder came into the Schulwerk, how its place there is different from many other approaches, and a listing of additional elemental resources for the recorder.

This is an excellent addition to your library of resources. Either as a read-through book or simply to use as a reference, *Teaching Recorder in the Music Classroom* will help you incorporate this wonderful instrument into your classroom.

— Matthew McCoy



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send two copies of recently published books or one copy of CD or video materials to The Editor: Linda Ahlstedt, 41 Atlantic Ave. Apt. 3, Rochester, NY 14607.