

INTRODUCTION TO THE BASIC MUSIC COURSE

Music has always been an important part of worship for Latter-day Saints. It inspires and strengthens, brings beauty and unity, and is a unique way to express feelings about the gospel.

Many Church members want to learn how to read music, conduct hymns, and play a keyboard instrument. The purpose of the Basic Music Course is to help you develop these skills. As you do, you will enrich your life and be able to serve in new ways.

The Basic Music Course has two parts: the *Conducting Course* and the *Keyboard Course*. You do not need previous musical training to begin these courses. As you progress through them, you will learn music skills in a carefully planned order.

You should begin with the *Conducting Course*. After completing it, you will know the basics of rhythm and note reading; you will also know how to use the Church hymnbook and how to conduct most hymns. After completing the *Keyboard Course*, you will know how to read music and play some simple hymns on any keyboard instrument.

The Basic Music Course can be used in branches, wards, stakes, and homes to teach all interested members and nonmembers.

No fees beyond the cost of materials should be charged. The materials for the conducting and keyboard courses are listed below.

Conducting Course (33619)

Conducting Course manual (31241)

Conducting Course audiocassette (52150)

(The videocassette *Music Training* [53042] includes the segment "How to Conduct a Hymn," which correlates with this course but is not part of the *Conducting Course*.)

Keyboard Course (33620)

Keyboard Course manual (31242)

Keyboard Course audiocassette (52149)

Hymns Made Easy (31249; also available separately)

Cardboard keyboard (31244)

Music note cards (31245)

Carrying sack (80378)

Electronic keyboard (80509; has four octaves of full-sized keys and is suitable for playing all of the hymns)

These items are available from the Salt Lake Distribution Center (1999 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104) and other area distribution centers worldwide.

ADVICE TO STUDENTS

The goal of the Conducting Course is to teach you all the skills you need to serve as music director in your ward or branch and to teach others how to conduct. Even though you may not feel confident with your new skills, the Church needs you to help others learn. Teaching will improve your skills and give you more confidence.

Here are some suggestions that will help you successfully complete this course:

1. *Follow the course in order.* This course is arranged to help you learn concepts in a logical progression. Even if you already understand a concept, review it and do the practice assignments.
2. *Try to master each concept and skill before moving ahead.* Practice each skill until you feel comfortable with it. If a skill is too hard for you, do your best and move on. It is better to finish the course than quit because you have difficulty with one or two skills. With patience and practice, you will eventually master all the skills.

3. *Follow all the practice instructions.* This will help you learn the skills more quickly.
4. *Use the resources provided.* The audio-cassette that comes with this course has examples of what you are learning. The boxed numbers in this manual refer to numbered examples on the tape that illustrate basic skills.
5. *Use Hymns, the Church's standard hymnbook.* The manual often instructs you to refer to it, and you should use it whenever you work on this course.
6. *Use the Glossary of Musical Terms to learn more about the words printed in bold type in the manual.* Each of these words appears in bold type the first time it is used.
7. *Use your skills as you learn them.* As you serve the Lord by helping others worship him through music, he will bless you. "For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads" (D&C 25:12).

