

The background of the cover is a vibrant collage of musical instruments. At the top, a xylophone with wooden bars is visible. Below it, a pair of maracas with colorful shells (red, green, yellow) is shown. In the lower left, a portion of a piano keyboard with black and white keys is visible. On the right side, a red gong with a yellow center is partially shown. The overall color palette is dominated by red, blue, and yellow.

Teaching Musical Concepts

**The Standard Classroom
Percussion and
The Malaysian Folk
Instruments**

AGNES KU CHUN MOI

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The Malaysian Folk Instruments**

Agnes Ku Chun Moi

Penerbit 

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FOREWORD

In Malaysia there is an increasing demand and emphasis on education by the government. Music Education was made compulsory for primary schools in 1983 under the New Primary School Curriculum.

In school, music education is very important to the students as it helps the young minds to develop creativity and expression of emotions. Studies show that children who are exposed to music at a young age learn better in other subjects. Music can also help to produce individuals who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically balanced and harmonious. Therefore, music education is in line with the Malaysia Philosophy of Education. Neurological research also shows that music study can contribute to brain development. Music activities provide children with important experiences that can help them to develop physical coordination, timing, memory as well as visual, aural and language skills. To achieve these objectives music teachers should be properly trained so that they can impart the basic knowledge of music to their young students.

Publication and research are important in a university. The School of Arts Studies always encourages the academic staff to write books in the field they specialize in. Books and journals published by the School of Arts Studies could be used as references and also become the collection for future research and publication.

In this book the author shares her knowledge and experience in the application of various methods of teaching musical concepts with emphasis on the use of local musical instruments. It would be an invaluable aid to music educationist at schools, colleges and universities. The book should also serve as an important reference and should find a place at various libraries in the country. The application of various teaching methods described in this book would help music teachers to overcome their teaching problems in the classroom.

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is written to assist the Malaysian primary school music teachers to be more effective in teaching music in the classroom. It covers in a practical, thorough and comprehensive manner what a music teacher needs to know and do in order to be effective. Currently, there are not many music pedagogy books and references available in Malaysian schools. This book can be used as a handbook for the primary school music teachers with little or no musical background as well as those with musical training.

This book defines clearly how to apply the methods of Orff, Kodaly and Dalcroze in teaching classroom music and also demonstrate how percussion instruments are being used in the application of methods by these three music educators. Besides, it also emphasizes values of percussion instruments in teaching musical concepts as well as parallel relationships between Western and Malaysian percussion instruments. Finally, it describes the musical concepts to teach in the classroom and show how to use percussion instruments and Malaysian folk instruments in teaching these concepts. The Malaysian folk instruments are recommended in the school classroom because they are easily available and the children are also familiar with them. The applications include activities, games and enjoyable exercises for use in teaching musical concepts.

The writer sincerely extends her special thanks and appreciation to several people who helped her in completion of the book, especially to the Dean of the School of Arts Studies, Associated Professor Abdul Jamal Abdul Hamid for his encouragement and support, to Professor Hanafie Imam for his assistance, valuable suggestions, guidance and advice and to Associated Professor Inon Shahrudin Abdul Rahman for his idea and inspiration and also to Associated Professor Dr. Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan for her advice. Appreciation is also extended to those who helped in the typing and preparation of illustration of instruments. Last but not least, the writer thanks her husband and her family members for their continuous moral support.

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