

From *Community of Christ Sings*

Possibilities for Children's Choir

Below is a list of songs in *Community of Christ Sings* that could work well with children. Use this list as illustrative rather than exhaustive. There is plenty more material to work with. Here are some tips for selecting music for children:

- Repetitive lyrics and refrains are good, especially for children under eight. Remember that young children are just learning to read.
- Pick something you think the children will like, but also look beyond your initial assumptions. For example don't assume that it has to be fast and speedy to interest kids. Children also have favorite songs that are slow and beautiful.
- If you like a song, there's a good chance the children will too.

Easy to Remember

Short or repetitive lyrics and melody, easy for pre-literate children to learn. Rounds provide a nice opportunity for children to sing in harmony.

- **Alleluia/Hallelujah/Heleluyan** (CCS 86, 103, 116, 117, 119, 120, 146) Different melodies from around the world, usually eight measures long or less
- **Ameni** (CCS 113) Two words, two parts, fun rhythm, four full measures
- **Amen, Sing Praises to the Lord!** (CCS 109) South African hymn with repetitive lyrics, 8 measures
- **As the Deer** (CCS 148) Repetitive lyrics from contemporary Christian genre, 16 measures
- **Be Still** (CCS 156) four-part setting, 4 measures
- **Calm to the Waves** (CCS 158) 9 measures
- **Come All You People** (CCS 84) repetitive praise song from Zimbabwe
- **Come, Holy Spirit, Come** (CCS 154) Repetitive lyrics, 12 measures
- **Dona Nobis Pacem** (CCS 155) Three-part round. The three-word Latin phrase means "Give Us Peace"
- **For the Life That You Have Given** (CCS 619) Simple English but no repetition, 16 measures
- **Give Thanks** (CCS 134) Simple lyrics from the contemporary Christian genre, 16 measures (plus repetition)
- **Gloria** (CCS 122) Lively Spanish-language hymn, 8 measures
- **God Extends an Invitation** (CCS 520) Spanish and English lyrics, 14 measures
- **He Came Singing Love** (CCS 226) 4 stanzas are identical apart from a word substitution, 10 measures
- **Humble Yourself** (CCS 221) Repetitive lyrics, from Zambia
- **Jubilate Deo** (CCS 123) Two-word Latin phrase plus alleluia meaning "Praise God". Six-part round, 6 measures
- **Kyrie Eleison** (CCS 184) Two-word Greek phrase meaning "God have mercy", 8 measures.

- **Let This Mind Be in You** (CCS 169) repetitive lyrics quoting Philippians 2:5
- **Listen in the Silence** (CCS 153) 8 measures
- **Lord, Have Mercy** (CCS 197) Four word song from the contemporary Christian genre
- **My Peace** (CCS 149) Simple lyrics from the contemporary Christian genre, 20 measures
- **Peace Be with You** (CCS 662) Simple lyrics, 8 measures
- **Sanna, Sannanina** (CCS 469) South African two word hymn, 14 measures
- **The Lord Be with You** (CCS 74) Simple lyrics from the contemporary Christian genre, 16 measures
- **Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu** (CCS 121) Repetitive lyrics in four languages

Oral Tradition

Folk hymns and spirituals largely passed down orally. In Community of Christ many of these are sung from memory at church campfires

- **Shalom Chaverim** (CCS 653) Hebrew round
- **God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name** (CCS 627) Repetitive lyrics (2 stanzas and refrain)

Old-Time Favorites

- **Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works** (CCS 118) Some old-fashioned language but fun to sing
- **Great Is Thy Faithfulness** (CCS 11)
- **There's an Old, Old Path** (CCS 244)
- **The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning** (CCS 384)
- **Tenderly, Tenderly, Lead Thou Me On** (CCS 256)

Christmas/Advent

- **All Earth Is Hopeful** (CCS 292) simple, rhythmic melody (4 stanzas)
- **Away In a Manger** (CCS 425, 426) (3 stanzas)
- **How Far Is It to Bethlehem?** (CCS 417) originally titled "Children's Song of the Nativity", describes the scene from the perspective of a child
- **Jesus, Our Brother, Kind and Good** (CCS 412) talking animals in the stable (3 stanzas)
- **Like a Child** (CCS 403) (3 stanzas)
- **Lully, Lullay** (CCS 447) (3 stanzas and refrain)
- **Peace Child** (CCS 402) (3 stanzas)
- **Star-Child** (CCS 420) simple but vivid imagery (5 stanzas and refrain)
- *...And many more that refer to Christ as a child*

By subject matter

Lyrics discusses children or children's topics

- **Creator of Sunrises** (CCS 207) A request for forgiveness and help from “thy children” (3 stanzas)
- **Friend of the Streetwalker, Beggar, and Child** (CCS 289) (4 stanzas)
- **Gather Your Children** (CCS 77) An invitation to come as children to receive Christ’s blessing and to turn and bless others (4 stanzas)
- **God of the Sparrow God of the Whale** (CCS 138) last stanza talks about children. Memorization of a couple stanzas also possible (6 stanzas)
- **Go, My Children** (CCS 650) Children meaning adults too (4 stanzas)
- **I Am Standing Waiting** (CCS 298) First person lyrics from the perspective of a child in need (4 stanzas)
- **I Come with Joy** (CCS 533) Uses the phrase “child of God” (5 stanzas)
- **Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands** (CCS 585) Simple English lyrics. Includes the phrase “blessing children small” (2 stanzas)
- **Let Us Build a House** (CCS 276) A message that all are welcome at church (including children)
- **O Day of Peace** (CCS 380) Based on Isaiah 11 “a little child shall lead them”
- **O Lord, We Come As Children All** (CCS 510) A confirmation hymn
- **Strong, Gentle Children** (CCS 233) A message of assurance for God’s children (3 stanzas)
- **The Storm Came to Honduras** (CCS 204) Children lost or struggling because of natural disaster
- **We Are the Ones the World Awaits** (CCS 305) Hope for the future “For every child a ray of hope” (3 stanzas)
- **We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky** (CCS 301) Our connectedness with creation and humans suffering from war or poverty
- **When Senseless Violence Takes Those We Love** (CCS 205) Christ empathy for victims of violence or hate
- **Would You Bless Our Homes** (CCS 629) Call for love in family

Written for children

- **Lift Every Voice and Sing** (CCS 555) Originally written as a poem for students at the segregated Stanton School, later adopted by NAACP in 1919 as the “The Negro National Anthem”. (3 stanzas)

More suggestions

Not simple enough to easily memorize and does not discuss children or children’s topics per say, but may work well with literate children’s choirs

- **All Things Bright and Beautiful** (CCS 135) Seems to be frequently used by children’s choirs (4 stanzas)
- **Eat This Bread and Never Hunger** (CCS 530) Fun to sing. Since the refrain is about communion, might work better with children old enough to participate (3 stanzas and refrain)
- **Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me** (CCS 45) Discusses the value of love, joy and peace (5 stanzas)
- **Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands** (CCS 309) Simple rhyming and language (5 stanzas)

- **Rain Down** (CCS 260): Lively gospel music (2 stanzas)

—David Bolton (March 2014) with help from Sandee Gamet and Nadine Stallbaumer.