

Jump Right In: The Instrumental Series Soprano Recorder
A Brief Description
By David C. Moniz

1. “Jump Right In” is based on the belief that a music instrument can only reproduce the musical sounds that exist in the player’s mind.

If that is the case, we must actually teach two instruments:

- The physical instrument (executive skills)
- The mental instrument (audiation skills)

2. “Jump Right In” is also based on the belief that music skills are best learned in the same way a child learns his/her native language. This means that **listening** must come first, followed by **performing fluently by ear, (without any kind of notation)**, followed by **performing fluently with notation**, followed by **theoretical understanding of the notation**.

3. In order to accomplish these goals the students are expected to:

- Sing all songs before playing them on the recorder.
- Sing, chant, and play a vocabulary of many tonal patterns and rhythm patterns.
- Learn to play many songs without any kind of notation.
- Learn to read notation **after** they are performing fluently several songs in different keyalities, tonalities, and meters.
- Learn “music theory” **after** they have gained some fluency in reading notation.

4. The results of the “Jump Right In” approach are as follows:

- Students are able to perform fluently on their recorders. They “sing” through their instruments with a sense of musical flow.
- Students perform with good intonation and rhythmic accuracy since they have been taught to hear and feel the music inside them.
- Students are able to listen to many styles of music with an understanding of tonality and meter.
- Students are able to engage in higher level thinking skills such as creativity, improvisation, and generalization.
- Students are able to play a large repertoire of songs with and without notation.

5. If you would like to learn more about “Jump Right In” and audiation-based music instruction:

- Visit the website of The Gordon Institute for Music Learning, <http://www.giml.org>
- Contact me via email, dmoniz@douglasps.net