

37. TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Keep it steady

C

Jan - u - ar - y is the first month. Jan - u - ar - y is the first month.

5 G

Feb - ru - ar - y is the sec - ond month. Feb - ru - ar - y is the sec - ond month.

9 C⁷ G⁷/D

March is the third. March is the third. A - pril is the fourth. A - pril is the fourth.

13 C/E F

May is the fifth. May is the fifth. June is the sixth. June is the sixth. Ju -

17 G⁷ C

ly is the sev - enth. Ju - ly is the sev - enth. Now we're more than

20 Dm⁷ G C Dm⁷ G

half way through. Now we're more than half way through. The

23 C G

eighth month is Au - gust. The eighth month is Au - gust. Sep - tem - ber's num - ber nine. Sep -

26 C⁷

tem - ber's num - ber nine. Oc - to - ber is the tenth. Oc - to - ber is the tenth. No -

29 F G

vern - ber is e - lev - en. No - vem - ber is e - lev - en. That brings us to De - cem - ber. That

32 C

brings us to De - cem - ber. Twelve months of the year. Twelve months of the year.

37. Twelve Months of the Year

Suggested tempo: ♩ = 112

Use: January, or any time of the year.

Related songs: #31, *The Seasons*; #39, *What in the World Is a Leap Year?* (calendar songs); #3, *Cast Your Vote for Your Favorite Note*; #6, *Do Re Mi, Echo Me* (scales).

Bulletin board: Yearly calendar.

Musical aspects:

- A complete major scale from m. 1 through m. 19.
- A scale on the first five scale degrees on the first beats of m. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31.

Musical activities:

- Use tone chimes or pitched bells to play the scale passages described above.
- For m. 1-18, each two-measure phrase contains only one note, but the rhythms vary from phrase to phrase. Note the various rhythmic patterns: a dotted eighth/sixteenth in m. 15, a sixteenth/dotted eighth in m. 17, and a triplet in m. 33. Make sure you precisely articulate these patterns and that your students echo you exactly. You may put these rhythms on the blackboard and point to them when you sing them.
- You can practice rhythmic echoes by clapping the rhythms for each two-measure phrase and having the students echo back with handclaps or by tapping lightly on their desk. This exercise may, in fact, be more difficult than singing each phrase.

Learning aspects: The months of the year.

Learning activities:

- How many days in each month? How many days in a year? Sing #39, *What in the World Is a Leap Year?*
- If each month had a color, what color would it be? Sing #18, *If You Could Be a Color*.
- Which month is the coldest in your area? The warmest? The wettest and driest? You may be able to get this information from a weather website.

38. UP THE SCALE

Don't rush!

F F#

Here we go, Here we go, up the scale. up the scale.

5 G G#

Grab a note, Grab a note, by the tail. by the tail.

9 A Bb

When we get When we get to the top, to the top,

13 B C

that is when that is when we will stop. we will stop.

38. Up the Scale

Suggested tempo:  = 138

Use: Any musical activity or when studying step-wise passages or scales.

Related songs: #6, *Do, Re, Mi*; #7, *The Elevator Song*; #22, *Minor or Major?*; #37, *Twelve Months of the Year* (scales).

Bulletin board: Musical notation, scales.

Musical aspects:

- Step-wise chromatic movement, always with a 4th below. In other words, this song repeats a tonic-dominant interval in an ascending chromatic passage.
- Some students may have heard this melody at a sporting event. It's often played by the organist at arenas or stadiums during a game.

Musical activities:

- Sing this song very carefully at a steady tempo. It is not easy for young children to sing chromatic passages. But because each individual phrase is so simple, this song is an excellent introduction to chromatic singing.
- Give one child two bells, pitched F and C, other children two bells pitched F#-C#, G-D, and so on up the scale to C-G. Point to each student to play the bells, either as you sing each phrase, or on the echo.
- You may also sing this song as *Down the Scale* by literally reading the song backward—beginning on a high C and progressing down to F. You'll have to change the text: "Here we go, down the scale. Grab a note by the tail. When we're far from the top, that is when we will stop."

Learning activities: As described above, this song can be read forward or backward. What do you call a word (such as "level") or a phrase that is spelled the same backward or forward? (a palindrome)