

Top Tunes for Teaching

**977 Song Titles and Practical Tools for
Choosing the Right Music Every Time**

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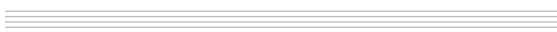
Introduction

"Your music is SO good! Where'd you find it?" Teachers and trainers ask me this every single time I present. For years, I've collected great music, perfect for learning that I now want to share with other educational professionals.

The purpose of this book is to provide support for teachers and trainers who love to use music in the classroom but are not sure of how or when or which piece of music fits a situation. *Top Tunes for Teaching* is mostly a book of lists of tunes and artists, so I hope it's easy to use. There are dozens of lists and hundreds of songs in this book, some of which you may not be familiar with. Be sure to screen songs you don't know before playing them in front of a group—that way you can avoid surprises like extremely long introductions or PG-13 lyrics in front of a K–3 class!

This book is a storehouse of practical tidbits sprinkled throughout with scientific research and rationale. It was really fun for me to write and I hope it is just as much fun for you to read and use. If you have any favorite selections or suggestions you think should be in the next edition, please e-mail them to me at eric@jlcbrain.com—I'd love your input.

Have fun!



10 Great Reasons to Use Music

You probably already know all the good reasons for using music while you teach, but have you ever tried to articulate them to others? Here is a good list of reasons why music benefits learning.

1. *Increase social contact.* Music encourages social contact by putting people into a positive, relaxed mental state. Louder music can bring others close together if only so they can hear each other better! Familiar, fun music puts groups in a social mood.
2. *Prime students for learning.* Prepare learners for upcoming tasks by selecting music to put them in a particular emotional state or by playing a song with content-applicable lyrics (there really are songs about science, geography, math, English, and P. E.).
3. *Entrain emotional states of mind.* When everyone in the audience hears the same piece of music over time, they often get into the same emotional state, mental rhythm, and frame of mind. Music creates a harmonic beacon for our bodies to follow.
4. *Deliver key messages.* Sometimes music can send a message to your students better than you can. Certain songs can do that well; browse the lists of songs in this book for ideas and recommendations.
5. *Provide a background for physical movement.* Up-tempo music playing in the background prompts learners to move faster. When you want them to get up and perform a physical task, play a song from the *18 Pumped-Up, High-Energy Jams* or *10 More Upbeat Energizers* lists on pages 36 and 43.
6. *Evoke specific memories.* Certain songs may remind listeners of what they were doing when they first heard that song. Other songs may invite the listener to evoke a new memory not previously associated with that song. Experiment with both.
7. *Energize a group.* Fast music, or music with 100 to 140 beats per minute (BPM), is both stressful and energizing. Use it as a strategic tool to get students up on their feet and moving or busily working to meet a deadline. (See *3 Ways to Pace Instruction with Beats per Minute* on page 14.)



8. *Establish an auditory backdrop.* Music playing in the background can provide a stable, predictable backdrop to the day's events. The next time you watch a movie, pay attention to how often music is played in the background. The music you choose should match and enhance the direction of the day, not overwhelm it. Instrumental music with 55 to 70 BPM works best for this purpose.
9. *Calm the mind and body.* Slow-paced music practically forces the body and mind to slow down to its tempo. Play music at 40 to 55 BPM and expect miracles! Two lists of relaxing music, *15 Soothing, Inspiring Tunes* and *17 Albums to Calm the Mind and Soothe the Body*, appear on pages 27 and 46.
10. *Heal.* There is some scientific evidence that music, when used in certain ways, reduces stress and strengthens the immune system.



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21 More 1980s Dance Hits

All of the songs on this list have a catchy beat, good lyrics, and are totally fun songs for countless uses.

1. *Our Lips Are Sealed* (The Go-Gos)
2. *Mexican Radio* (Wall of Voodoo)
3. *Only a Lad* (Oingo Boingo)
4. *The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades* (Timbuk 3)
5. *Save It for Later* (English Beat)
6. *Mad about You* (Belinda Carlisle)
7. *Tenderness* (General Public)
8. *Rain in the Summertime* (The Alarm)
9. *Our House* (Madness)
10. *Dance Hall Days* (Wang Chung)
11. *Rock This Town* (The Stray Cats)
12. *Jessie's Girl* (Rick Springfield)
13. *The Walls Came Down* (The Call)
14. *Call Me* (Blondie)
15. *What I Like about You* (The Romantics)
16. *Electric Avenue* (Eddy Grant)
17. *Politics of Dancing* (Re-Flex)
18. *We Got the Beat* (The Go-Gos)
19. *Tainted Love* (Soft Cell)
20. *The Safety Dance* (Men Without Hats)
21. *I Melt with You* (Modern English)

