

BRIGHT IDEAS IN MUSIC FOR YEARS 5 PLUS**BRIGHT IDEA ONE****USE THE READY POSITION AND REST POSITION TO RETAIN YOUR SANITY**

- The 'ready position' is an old ploy used by experienced recorder teachers.
- There is nothing worse than 25-30 recorders being tested by enthusiastic children when you are just about to introduce the fingering for a new note.
- Insist that pupils use the ready position. This is as illustrated, the recorder mouthpiece resting on the chin (not in the mouth) and all bar the little finger on the notes of the recorder.
- From this ready position, have the children take off the required number of fingers for the note being taught.
- The rest position is an absolute must when teaching recorders. The rest position simply means recorders are slipped under the arms.
- Insist that recorders are put at rest (under the arm) when you are making any teaching points.

BRIGHT IDEA TWO**INTRODUCING GUITARS AND UKULELES TO YOUR SINGING PROGRAMME**

- As we all know, tunes are made up of chords, usually three or more.
- These chords change several times during a song.
- A chord is a group of notes that harmonise with the tune being played.
- Guitars/ukuleles are a popular method of having play chords. But here we seem to strike a problem. How can a beginner student be expected to be able to change the chords - they can't.
- Simply eliminate this problem.
- Let's say the tune has the chords D, G and A7.
- Divide the players into three groups, one for each chord.
- This way they only have to learn one chord.
- Your music should have chord indications and when each group sees their chord, they simply strum it in time.
- Over a period of lessons swap the players to a new chord.
- In a very short time you will find your students can change all the chords easily.