

OUTSIDE THE LINES

A New Approach to Composing in the Classroom

Mark Burrows

Editor: Kris Kropff

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ABOUT THIS CLASSROOM RESOURCE

With **OUTSIDE THE LINES**, the always-inventive, always-creative Mark Burrows has turned composition in the classroom on its ear! Each composition activity in this resource is designed to free your students so they can focus on expressing their creative ideas without worrying about breaking any musical “rules.” The result is a set of activities that fulfill the National Standards of Music Education yet are accessible and most of all enjoyable.

Your students will be invited to work with everything from picture notation to a one-line staff as they participate in composition activities that are educational, rewarding, invigorating, and—it bears repeating—fun! Your students can compose a soundtrack, shape a river of sound, create a soundscape to accompany a famous painting, even build a cool percussion groove using box notation. But most of all, your students will learn that composing is all about communicating, creating and connecting!



MEET MARK BURROWS

Mark Burrows received his undergraduate degree in music education from Southern Methodist University and his graduate degree in conducting from Texas Christian University. Mark is currently the Director of Fine Arts at First United Methodist Church – Fort Worth. He directs choral ensembles of all ages and oversees programs in visual arts and theater. Prior to his work in Fort Worth, Mark was a music teacher at Stephen C. Foster Elementary School in Dallas, Texas.

Mark has written music and curriculum for numerous major publishers. His song collections, including *Groovin' with the Grimms*, the *Gettin' Down with Mama Goose* series, and *Yo! Leonardo*, the first in his Smarty Pants series, top many best-seller lists, as do his percussion resources, which include *The Accidental Drum Circle* and *The Body Electric*. Mark also writes extensively for video, television and the stage.

Known to many little listeners as “Mister Mark,” he tours nationally, presenting high-energy family concerts. Mark’s first two CDs, *You’ve Got a Song* and *Go Ape!*, have won several awards for children’s music.

Mark resides in Fort Worth, Texas with his wife, Nina, and daughters, Emma and Grace.

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