

## ORFF FOR ADULTS

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Lake Junaluska, NC

Orff instruments play an important part of children's music education in many schools across the United States. This has always been the primary role for these beautiful instruments and the reason they were designed and created. In the late 1990's a member of the congregation of my present church, Trinity United Methodist Church of Tallahassee, Florida, provided funds to purchase a set of Orff instruments. Naturally, we use them with children and youth music groups. One Sunday, noticing how beautiful the instruments sound in our sanctuary, it occurred to me that some of the most talented adult musicians at the church would really enjoy playing them on occasion. These people read music, have excellent rhythm, usually play a musical instrument or handbells and love a new challenge.

Finding capable, willing players was easy enough. Finding appropriate music was not. After spending considerable time on the internet and meeting with Orff expert Grace Nash (she lives in Tallahassee!), I found a few publications, but they were of limited use. Either they were too easy or not well suited for worship services. So, I started composing/arranging my own pieces, having produced two selections per year since 1999. By trial and error, I developed combinations of instruments paired with a vocal soloist that seemed musically satisfying. Each summer, with a 90-minute rehearsal our Orff ensemble prepares the two new selections plus a short Introit and Benediction Response. "Orff Sunday" for 2010 is August 15.

Other churches with Orff instruments and an adventurous music leader can do this also! They just need to see how it is done and have access to some music. That is what this workshop is all about! Available on my church website ([www.tumct.org](http://www.tumct.org)) by selecting Music Ministries, anyone can gain access to five or six of these pieces, including music and audio files. Look for the heading Orff for Adults. All are available for free. Additional selections will be added in the next few years.

A recent search on the internet uncovered numerous sources of music for Orff ensembles, a big improvement over the late 1990's. How many of these are designed for worship services to be preformed by advanced adult musicians is another question. Odds are, at least some music of this type is now available.