

More About A-ROUND THE SEASONS

The great majority of my choral music is of the sacred variety, written for various church choirs that I have either directed or sung in. But when I went out of my teaching element (band) and took a one-year job as an interim middle school choir director, I found a totally new source of inspiration. **A-ROUND THE SEASONS** is one result. I will let the preface to the score describe it for you:

This is a short cycle of four rounds for children's voices, each representing a season of the year. Two versions of each round are included: the basic round with an optional hand chime ostinato, and a 3-part performance arrangement with piano accompaniment. The hand chime ostinati can also be played along with the piano accompanied arrangements. These arrangements are all in the same format, with the tune being sung first in unison and then once as a 3-part round.

The four rounds are meant to all be very similar to each other. They are simple and modal, using all "white" notes (represented by the white keys on a piano keyboard). The style is inspired by Erik Satie's **Three Gymnopedies**, which are all fairly simple and very much like each other.

Although the booklet--and audio track--begins with **Autumn** (simply because it was written first), any season may be used as a starting point for the cycle.