

Making Music in Uganda

Conduct the music in front of everybody? George can handle it.

By David Dickson
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Not many children serve in a Church calling before they graduate from Primary. But George N. from Uganda was only five years old when he was called to be the chorister in his branch.

The chorister is the person who stands up in front of everybody during sacrament meeting to lead the singing. It's an important job!

"I used to be very nervous when I was younger," George says. But even then he always did his best.

He improved every week. Before long he was leading the music confidently.

George enjoys serving in his calling. "I feel good," he says. "I feel like the Spirit is inside the room."

Music is a big part of George's life. He also plays the piano

and guitar. Of course, it helps that George comes from a musical family. They all love singing together—George, his parents, his six sisters, and his one brother. From oldest to youngest their names are Rosillah, Mirriam, Nancy, Ashley, George, Chayene, Onidah, and Gideon. Their favorite song to sing as a family is "A Child's Prayer" (*Children's Songbook*, 12).

Now that George is 12, he is busy during part of sacrament meeting when he helps pass the sacrament. His younger brother, Gideon, age 5, helps out by conducting the music some of the time. George taught Gideon how.

Both brothers smile happily when they lead the music. They know they are helping bring the Spirit into the meeting. ■



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ABOUT GEORGE

- Besides music, one of George's hobbies is playing football.
- His favorite foods are rice, sweet potatoes, beans, and peanuts.
- His favorite subjects in school are English and mathematics.
- George enjoys playing board games with his family. His favorite board game is called Scattergories.



Book of Mormon Stories

The image shows a page from a music book. At the top, the title 'Book of Mormon Stories' is written. Below the title is an illustration of a yellow ship on blue waves. To the left of the ship, a circled '4' is placed above a '4' on a musical staff, indicating a 4/4 time signature. Below this, there are three staves of musical notation: a vocal line, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment line.

HOW TO CONDUCT MUSIC

You can learn to conduct music too! Here's how to conduct "Book of Mormon Stories" (*Children's Songbook*, 118):

Book of Mormon Stories¹.

Look at the two num-

bers at the beginning of the song. The top number tells you how many beats are in each measure or small section of the song. This song has four beats in each measure.

2. Lift your hand and hold it in a relaxed way with your fingers close together.

Move your hand downward.

Move your hand left.

Move your hand right.

Move your hand up.

3. Repeat the pattern for each measure of the song.
4. Keep practicing, and soon you'll be ready to conduct a song for family home evening!

