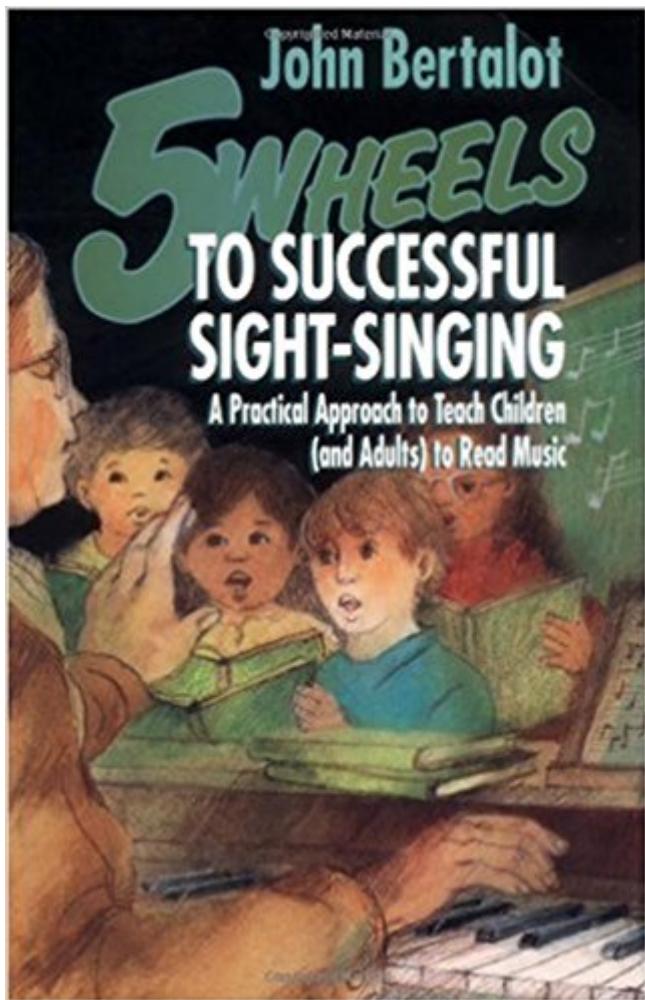


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# Five Wheels To Successful Sight-Singing



## **Synopsis**

A Practical Approach to Teach Children (and Adults) to Read Music. Bertalot's fresh approach motivates both experienced teachers and novices alike. He identifies five basic principles and twelve steps to success.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 132 pages

Publisher: Augsburg Fortress Publishers (February 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806626925

ISBN-13: 978-0806626925

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #828,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #182 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music > Chorale #615 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Music #952 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music

## **Customer Reviews**

An absolute essential for anyone working with not only children's choirs but adults as well. The style in which this book is written lends itself to being easily understood and enables one to go back quickly to review key points.

Dr. Bertalot includes not only practical, and 'aha!', ways of developing musicianship in children and adults alike, but he also shares a philosophy of teaching that will remind you why you became a teacher in the first place, whether three or thirty years ago. More progressive academicians may need to translate some of the inquiry-based methods to an approach less teacher-as-sage and rather teacher-as-facilitator, but the foundation of the approach is, regardless, applicable to any teaching mindset.

Here you will find not only aspirations and ideals but also concrete means of achieving the successful sight-singing as promised. Mr. Bertalot writes with enthusiasm and passion about the gift teachers give when imparting new skills and self-control. I would love to see every church and

school administrator read this book.

This book kept my attention from the beginning. It's narrative style is very effective and I really recommend it to any choir director or music leader.

I was looking for a book on how to learn to sight-sing. Unfortunately, this book is meant for trained musicians, to advise them on how to teach sight-singing. Lots of narrative, classroom stories. Not so much exercises or instruction.

This short book was highly recommended to me, and as a choir director, I enjoyed reading it. I have also read John Bertalot's *Immediately Practical Tips for Choral Directors*, and found that to espouse some of the same helpful ideas. Bertalot's short book is a quick and easy read as it takes the shape of a fictional dialogue between a music student and a master teacher. Bertalot does not support the idea that sight-singing should be taught for a few minutes at the beginning of each rehearsal and put away. His main thesis is that children should instead learn to read music while they are learning the very same music. Bertalot then provides instruction as to how to best go about doing that. Some of his ideas may at first seem counterproductive. For instance, Bertalot thinks the accompaniment should be played as lightly and/or as seldom as possible. In addition, students should practice more often in small groups than in larger sections. While they may not pick up their part in rehearsal as quickly, singers will develop their inner hearing and ability to read the notes. Bertalot provides twelve very basic steps to sight singing, starting with the singing of one note and moving on from there. This book is clear and concise, and Bertalot's ideas are well explained. Some may not like the dialogue-style of writing, as Bertalot's ideal "choirmaster" seems to have everything go perfectly for him. This book is geared for those who teach children. There is a short section at the end which covers different approaches for adults, but overall the book is less helpful for them. I strongly recommend this book to any music teacher who works with children and singing. They will appreciate it.

This is the best approach to teaching sight-singing I've seen. The five wheels are an analogy to a car - four wheels plus the steering wheel. Each wheel represents a point that a choir director or music teacher should use to guide the student quickly to learn how to pick up a piece of music and sing it successfully. You can memorize the five wheels if you assign one to each finger of your hand. But the author - wonderfully patient, experienced, and something of a genius among choir

directors - doesn't leave you there. He then gives you 12 easy steps he has found will bring students to look at, think about, and thoroughly enjoy the sheet music they have in front of them. Oh, how many hours have I wasted getting my choir to learn songs by getting them to repeat unthinkingly what I play or sing to them? The author of "5 Wheels to Successful Sight-Singing" makes every rehearsal a lesson in improving the student's ability to read music. For choir directors this saves enormous time - you just hand the music to the choir and they sing it, even if they've never seen the music before. If you want to teach choirs or small groups of students to sight-sing quickly and thoroughly, I don't think you will find a better way to do it than by following the simple method in this book.

I bought this book on sale a couple of years ago and just got around to reading it this summer. I'm an elementary school music teacher. This book has helped me organize my approach to teaching note reading not just sight singing. Mr. Bertalot explains that his approach works best with 2 to 4 students at a time. Nonetheless, in the past 12 weeks of school, I've been using his approach with my regular classes (25 kids in each class with 2nd through 5th grades targeted). Much success already. There is a video that also goes along with this. I'm looking for a resource so that I can order it. If you teach kids or adults, this is a VERY helpful book. The approach is fresh (yet, traditional) and well laid out. If you would like to e-mail me regarding the book feel free

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