

Interview #1
by Lucy G. Ingram

Interview with Adam Ward, teacher, organist and choir director at First United Methodist Church in Salisbury, N.C.

Mr. Ward has been using *Discover The Basics*[®] with his students for two years. He starts his students on the organ for their first five or six lessons, and then begins also to incorporate the piano into their lessons. Adam finds that the students are fascinated with the organ and beginning at the organ kindles an interest, which lays groundwork for later developments on both instruments.

Adam focuses the attention of his students on the composer boxes by asking the student to read aloud the information to him. At this time he takes the opportunity of sharing with the student further information about the composers.

He also finds that the students are curious about the titles of the pieces, and they talk together about the language and what the titles mean. This gives the student/teacher relationship a chance to exchange ideas about concepts other than the music on the page.

Mr. Ward's comments on the *Discover the Basics*[®] series:

1. The series teaches itself; the logic of building material in a step-by-step progression makes the student feel he/she is doing well and enjoys a sense of achievement; I find, also, it makes it easy for me to facilitate the learning process. It makes sense.
2. The early introduction of meters other than simple duple and triple, including compound meter, is wonderful and appropriate.
3. Duets are great—I use them as incentives. When the student brings the assigned pieces to the lesson in good shape, I play the duet part along. This creates a sense of expanded pride and comradery. I often incorporate these duets in recitals.
4. The writing at the end of each unit is made fun. I like the way it reinforces the concepts covered in the units. The student looks forward to the writing pages.

Lucy Ingram studied piano and organ at the Eastman School of Music where she majored in piano performance. Lucy has taught piano for over thirty years at all levels in both her private studio and at several colleges and universities in Greensboro, North Carolina. She brings a very wide teaching experience to her role as co-editor of Discover the Basics[®].