

**Sing a Song of Seasons Songbook and CD**  
**By Mary Thienes-Schunemann**  
**Reviewed by Susan Dent**

I was excited to receive the new *Sing a Song of Seasons* songbook and CD. Since my daughter's birth I had enjoyed singing lullabies from Mary Thienes-Schunemann's first collection (*The Wonder of Lullabies*).

My first impression was WOW! What a vast treasury of songs she's gathered. I counted 48 titles, but once I began listening I was surprised to find that most of the songs (28) were new compositions by Mary. The texts are verses from the series of seasonal books gathered by Margret Meyerkort and published by Wynstones Press. I couldn't help wishing for a wider variety of seasonal songs from Asia and Africa, or Eskimo snow songs, etc.

I was disappointed that many of the new melodies seemed slow and drowsy. I wouldn't feel comfortable singing them to children except as lullabies or naptime music. There were notable exceptions, however. In the summer collection, Mary's composition, "Day at the Beach" really breathed like the waves on the ocean, and the cheerful, playful song about "A Little Green Frog" could surely get a nursery hopping! Several spring songs appealed to me, but the winter collection was my favorite, especially "Jack Frost" where one could almost feel his nip. There is also an adorable mitten, scarf and hat song that could surely help any parent readying a child for winter play.

Listening to these new songs, I realized how differently we as adults relate to children and how our temperament shines through our creativity. I am rather sanguine and I would sing many of these verses differently. I realized that the creative synergy of our time together with a child or group of children can allow a verse to take on a life of its own.

Despite some grievances with the volume, I still enjoyed listening to Mary's beautiful sparkling clear soprano voice and articulation. The illustrations add much to the songbook, and the spiral bound format is very easy to work with. I think this resource can give much inspiration and show us how simple it is to create a nature song with and/or for children.

*Susan Dent is a eurythmist and parent living in Spring Valley, NY. She loves to sing to her daughter, Freya.*