

God Gave Me a Present

Diane Anderson Ludy

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 76. The first system shows a vocal line with a whole rest and a piano accompaniment. The second system includes the lyrics: "God gave me a pres - ent I real - ly like to use." The third system includes the lyrics: "God gave me a pres - ent. He said I get to choose be -". The score includes dynamic markings such as *rit.* and *a tempo*.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with the tempo marking *rit.* and contains the lyrics: "tween right and wrong. I'll try my best to choose the right." The piano accompaniment also starts with *rit.* and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "Will you help me so I might. ____" and ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment for the second system includes the tempo marking *a tempo* and ends with a double bar line.

Note: I have found that children enjoy playing a simple game with this song. I use a gift-wrapped box with removable lid and some smiley and frownie faces turned upside down. Each child is given the opportunity to choose “the right,” (the smiley face). If he gets a frownie face, he can try again. In either case, I have him give an example of right or wrong behavior—reinforcing the fact that the right choices we make give happy results, and the wrong choices bring unhappiness.