Make a Joyful Noise: Part I

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I. Why choral music?

- Successful performance of an octavo, be it in parts or a beautiful unison sound, is the culmination of a young musician's singing skills learned in music class and rehearsal.
- Choral music allows us to delve into the written word. The incorporation of text is unique to vocal music. This is an incredible opportunity for students to sing a story while making emotional connections. These connections might be to the historical era of the music, with other singers in the group, the audience or another culture. Great repertoire allows the music educator to teach beyond the music.
- Choral music requires active participation. It requires that students think, listen, observe and react to what is happening around them each moment. A beautiful choral sound requires each singer to be engaged throughout rehearsals and performances.

II. Warmups

- Keep warmups joyful, don't move through them too quickly and always provide feedback
- Choose a sequence of exercises that will prepare singers physically, prepare their breath, raise the soft pallet and connect the breath to sound
 - o Physical Brain Dance, relieve tension, develop good posture
 - o Breathing connect breath to body and sound
 - o Sirens raise the soft pallet, find placement in head voice
 - o Melodic patterns, scales, etc.
 - Part singing canons, partner songs
 - Jubilate Deo, Cuckoo, Vattenkanon
- Have a starting song or activity going as singers arrive Telephone Song, Name Games, etc
- Movement is important to keep younger singers' focus sometimes this might even need to come in the middle of your pieces

III. Teaching by Rote and Teaching Literacy

 Use a cappella partner songs as part of your warmup process and then incorporate them into your concerts

- o Simply Sung: Folk Songs Arranged in Three Parts for Young Singers by Mary Goetze published by Schott (SMC 23) "There's a Little Wheel A-Turnin' In My Heart" and "Shine Like a Star In the Morning"
- Extract new music from pieces as a sight-reading piece or as a warm-up activity
 - o "Chatter with the Angels" melody card sort

Chatter with the Angels COLLINS, C - Boosey & Hawkes Pepper #1998020

IV. Favorite Resources

- Creating Artistry Through Choral Experience, Henry Leck ISBN 978-1-4234-3711-6
- Harmony in Sequence: Developing Part Singing, Ruth Dwyer, order through Indianapolis Children's Choir website
- Life Line for Children's Choir Directors, Jean Ashworth Bartle 978-0769277011
- Simply Sung: Folk Songs Arranged In Three Parts for Young Singers, Mary Goetze
- The King's Singers Book of Rounds, Canons and Partsongs ISBN: 0-634-04630-6
- 150 Rounds for Singing and Teaching, Edward Bolkovac and Judith Johnson

Telephone Song
Learned from Mary Eggleston
while student teaching 2005

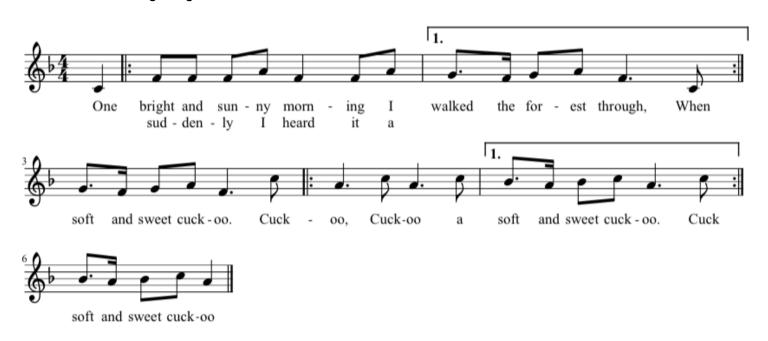


"Jubilate Deo"
by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)



"Cuckoo"

learned from Sharon Augsburger Fall 2009



"Vattenkanon" by Stefan Forsser

learned from Sarah Hassler in Orff 2 at DePaul University July 2013

