

Make a Joyful Noise: Part II

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I. Tackling Part-Singing

- Can your singers manage a beautiful unison? Do not give your singers something that they cannot successfully perform.
- Sorting sings into parts - taken from *Life Line for Children's Choir Directors*, Jean Ashworth Bartle 978-0769277011
 - o Teach melody to all students, then introduce a harmony line. Pull singers up in small groups of 4-5 and have them sing the harmony line against the rest of the choir singing the melody. Sort struggling singers into one group and the rest into another group.
 - o Repeat this process with another more challenging melody and harmony line. This should provide two fairly balanced parts. Be sure to add some of your stronger singers to part one or you may end up with a weaker melody line.

II. Hierarchy of Part-Singing and Choosing Meaningful Repertoire

- Set your singers up for success - choose repertoire that is within their ability

1) Unison	5) Descant
2) Call and Response	6) Rounds and Partner Songs
3) Ostinati	7) Canonic Entrance
4) Freeze Tone	8) Thirds and More

- Only the best is good enough for children. Do not give them soda, give them milk!
 - o Questions to consider when choosing repertoire:

Is the text valid? What language is the piece performed in?	How is part-singing achieved?
How do you feel as a musician when performing this piece?	Are there there extractable portions to build reading skills?
Is the difficulty level appropriate for your group?	Are there instrument parts for students or other musicians to play?
Can this piece be simplified and still provide a meaningful experience for singers?	Can the piece stand the test of time? Does it provide students with a cultural experience?

III. Choral Octavos for Children's Choir

- Unison

Trolls

Crawley - Leslie Music Supply Inc

1943026

- o Playful text, creative compositional style, text painting
- o Other ideas - Path to the Moon E. Thiman, Dance of the Willow V. Ebel-Sabo, Snakes P. Jenkyns, The Little Birch Tree M. Goetze

- Split singing but not harmony (like call and response, questions and answer)

Rain Dance

Berta & Sonja Poorman - Alfred Music Publishing

3298540

- o La based pentatonic melodies, sung in unison at the beginning. Two part starts with echoing, and then becomes slightly more challenging with a call and response style. Easy to sight read! Also a drum and rainstick part that is quite achievable for a students.

- Ostinati

Jingle at the Window

Dwyer / Leck - Henry Leck Choral Series

1889120

- o Unison beginning with folk melody. Staggered ostinati entrances in lowest and highest voices. Melody in the middle part. Very achievable harmony for young singers, ending can be simplified
- o Other ideas - Come Out to Play D. Beam

- Freeze Tone

Pat Works on the Railway

Dwyer / Leck - Henry Leck Choral Series

1889120

- o Lively folk song, cultural and historical connections, starts unison and harmony
- o Other ideas - pull from *Simply Sung* M. Goetze

- Canons/Rounds

Kookaburra

arr. Melissa Malvar-Keylock & Jill Friedersdorf - Colla Voce Music LLC

10018558

- o Unison start, familiar folk tune, three part canon can be simplified to fewer parts, ending adds in 2 ostinati parts with melody

- Partner Songs

A Distant Shore
Mary Donnelly & George Strid - Alfred Music Publishing
1961713

- o Beautifully composed partner melody couples with “The Water is Wide”, option for three part on the harmony section, each melody is sung alone before being sung together
- o Other Ideas - Dansi Na Kuimba D. & J. Perry, Little Fire Fly L. Schultz, Al Shlosa D’Varim A. Naplan, Rhythm of the Rain J. Estes, Here Rattler Here R. Dwyer & M. Ellis

- Canonic Entrances

The Swing
LIGHTFOOT, M - Heritage Music Press
1982172

- o Two part octavo, with canonic entrances helping with early two part singing, joyful and childlike text
- o Other Ideas - Red Dragonflies R. Dwyer & V. Nurr

- Other Harmonies

Tailor of Gloucester
Cyndee Giebler - Henry Leck Choral Series
3198124

- o This piece is a joy to sing. The beginning is unison but incorporates some rhythmic variances to add challenge and to keep things interesting. First instance of harmony is a counter melody in part 2, part 1 keeps melody. Later part 2 gets the melody back and part 1 gets a descant.

Little Fox
McRae, S - Pavane Publishing
10024471

- o Imaginative story, unique counter melody lines, clarinet part, can be coupled with *Fox Went Out On a Chilly Night* by P. Spier and with Hashual (Israeli folk dance about a Fox in a the Vineyard)
- o Other Ideas - Kusimama J. Papoulis, Circle ‘Round the Moon M. Hierholzer, Red River Dances C. Miller, Old Joe Clark M. Goetze

III. 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