

Piggies, and Horses, and Music—Oh My!

By Artie Almeida

Suggested Grade Levels: 2–3



Websites

www.musearts.com/cartoons/pigs/soundofmusic.html

www.dennyweb.com/singing_horses.htm

WebVisit Objectives

Students will demonstrate the ability to show different forms of melodic motion (steps, skips, and repeats). Students will experiment with the concept of *harmony*.

Materials

- *Piggies, and Horses, and Music—Oh My! Family WebVisit* sheet for each student (optional)

Overview

The main focus of this WebVisit is exploring the concepts of *melody* and *harmony*. This WebVisit includes two websites, which should be visited within the same lesson. Before visiting these sites, your students should have some understanding of the differences between melody and harmony. The definitions I use in my classroom are:

Melody: A single line of pitches that either moves up, down, or repeats the same notes.

Harmony: Two or more musical pitches played together.



Lesson Suggestions

1. Go to the website: www.musearts.com/cartoons/pigs/soundofmusic.html.
2. Run the cursor over each guinea pig from the bottom pedestal (biggest, pig 1) to the top (pig 8). Each guinea pig will clasp his or her paws together and sing its pitch when touched with the cursor. When touched in order, a major scale will result.
3. Touch the pigs to perform *Hot Cross Buns* in three different keys.

Key of C:	3-2-1	3-2-1	1-1-1-1	2-2-2-2	3-2-1
Key of F:	6-5-4	6-5-4	4-4-4-4	5-5-5-5	6-5-4
Key of G:	7-6-5	7-6-5	5-5-5-5	6-6-6-6	7-6-5
4. Invite a student to take your place at the computer and play *Hot Cross Buns* in the key of his choice.
5. Touch the pigs to perform *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.
 1-1-5-5-6-6-5 4-4-3-3-2-2-1 5-5-4-4-3-3-2 5-5-4-4-3-3-2 1-1-5-5-6-6-5 4-4-3-3-2-2-1
6. Touch the pigs to demonstrate steps (adjacent notes), skips (skipping pitches in the scale), and repeated tones. Choose a student to perform a melody, while calling out the type of movement (steps, skips or repeats) she is using.
7. Consider choosing a couple of students to come to the computer and create their own melodies with the singing guinea pigs.
8. To close this visit, remind the students that a melody is a single line of pitches that moves up, down, or repeats tones, and can move by steps or skips. Ask the students what it is called when they hear two or more musical pitches played together (harmony).
9. Go to the website www.dennyweb.com/singing_horses.htm to explore the concept of *harmony*.
10. Click on each horse to start its part of the four-part harmony. In order to create the harmonious sound intended, you must click on the horses at the beginning of the eight-beat phrases. It works best if you click on each horse a split-second before the downbeat of each new phrase. This is an excellent steady-beat exercise, as well! Present the parts in this order:
 - Click on the horses from left to right, 1-2-3-4.
 - Begin dropping out the parts by clicking on the horses in reverse order: 4-3-2-1, from right to left.
 - Click on 1-3-2-4 for a different order of appearance. Click to stop the singing in any order you wish.
 - Click on only two horses at a time to focus on two-part harmony. Then explore three-part harmony.
 - Finally, return to all four parts, in order for the students to hear the full, satisfying sound of four-part harmony.
11. Choose a few children to come to the computer and take turns adding and removing the harmony parts in the order of their choice.
12. Distribute the *Piggies, and Horses, and Music—Oh My! Family WebVisit* sheet for students to take home.

Extension Activity

After this WebVisit lesson, you may wish to proceed with a unit of study on *harmony*. Teach rounds, partner songs, and simple two-part harmony using traditional songs and instrumental arrangements.



A Family WebVisit ***Piggies, and Horses, and Music—Oh My!***

Dear Family Members,

In music class we have been learning about Melody and Harmony. Melody is a single line of pitches that moves up, down, or stays the same. Harmony is two or more different musical sounds that fit together.

Please visit the two websites listed below to experience Melody, with singing guinea pigs, and Harmony, with a quartet of singing horses!

MELODY – Singing Guinea Pigs: www.musearts.com/cartoons/pigs/soundofmusic.html

HARMONY – Singing Horses: www.dennyweb.com/singing_horses.htm

Students,

Take your family on a musical WebVisit!

Complete and return this slip, signed by your parent, to the music room for your reward.



Family Music WebVisit: *Piggies, and Horses, and Music—Oh My!*

Who went on the WebVisit? _____

Date and time of visit: _____

Child's favorite part of website: _____

Adult's favorite part of website: _____

Parent Signature: _____