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Christmas Bell

M. H. Solomon

Gently

V SR
Ring-a-ling-a-ling - a Christ-mas bell, ring the mes - sage an - gels tell. —

AG

SM
AM

bell tree

BX

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of the musical score. The top staff is for voice (V SR) with lyrics. The second staff is for alto guitar (AG). The third and fourth staves are for string mandala (SM) and arched mandala (AM). The fifth staff is for bell tree. The bottom staff is for bass xylophone (BX). The music is in C major, 4/4 time, and begins with a 'Gently' dynamic marking. A star symbol is placed above the first measure of the voice part.

V SR
Ring-a-ling-a-ling - a Christ-mas bell, that joy and peace on earth may— dwell.

AG

SM
AM

bell tree

BX

Detailed description: This system contains the second four staves of the musical score, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: "Ring-a-ling-a-ling - a Christ-mas bell, that joy and peace on earth may— dwell."

Notes

This Dorian song can be performed in canon. Otherwise, improvisation on a glockenspiel or recorder for new sections (maintaining the BX and SM/AM accompaniment if desired) is possible.

Hint: Improvising in modes can begin by focusing phrase beginnings on tonic or dominant tones, D or A in this case, and using stepwise motion in the melody. An example:

etc.

Detailed description: A short musical phrase on a treble clef staff, showing stepwise motion in a Dorian mode. The notes are D, E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D. The phrase ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final D.

Invite students to create parts for jingle bells, finger cymbals, etc. using model words. (See the Introduction for suggestions on using model words.)

Ivy, Holly, and Mistletoe

traditional lyrics

music by M. H. Solomon

Allegretto

Musical score for SX and AX parts. The SX part consists of a series of chords in a shifting triad pattern. The AX part consists of a series of notes in a similar pattern.

Musical score for V, SX, and AX parts. The V part is the vocal line with lyrics. The SX and AX parts provide accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I - vy, hol - ly and mis - tle - toe make a good Christ - mas where - ev - er you go."

Notes

The children can create a contrasting section to this song using these suggestions.

Group 1 improvises *Sing noël, noël* on G and neighboring tones.

Musical notation for Group 1 improvisation: Sing no - ël no - ël

Group 2 improvises singing the phrase *Merry Christmas* on B and neighboring tones.

Musical notation for Group 2 improvisation: Mer - ry Christ - mas.

Group 3 improvises singing the phrase *Peace and goodwill to all the earth* on D (high or low) and neighboring tones.

Musical notation for Group 3 improvisation: Peace and good will to all the earth.

These phrases can be repeated and layered as ostinati, beginning with phrase 1. The new section may be performed without accompaniment, or with the shifting triad accompaniment, or with the bass accompaniment only.

A possible performance form could be:

Intro

A: voices in unison with accompaniment, repeated

B: the improvised section

A: voices in two-part canon, with or without accompaniment

Arro - ró, Mi Niño

Uruguayan Folk Song
arr. M. H. Solomon

Slowly

V SR
1. Ar - ro - ró mi Ni - ño, ar - ro - ró mi sol,
2. Duér - me - te mi Ni - ño, duér - me - te mi sol,

AG

triangle

BX

V SR
ar - ro - ró pe - da - ci - to, de mi cor - a - zón.
duér - me - te pe - da - ci - to, de mi cor - a - zón.

AG

triangle

BX

Notes

This folk song from Uruguay has a very simple melody which can also be played on the barred instruments or SR.

Students may wish to create an introduction and/or a soft hand drum part using model words.

Translation

Verse 1

*Rock-a-bye my baby boy,
Rock-a-bye my little sun,
Rock-a-bye little piece of my heart.*

Verse 2

*Go to sleep my baby boy,
Go to sleep my little sun,
Go to sleep little piece of my heart.*