

Harmony Lesson Plan: “Frere Jacques”

Content and Achievement Standards:

• Produce multiple harmonies in a classroom setting given a specific song in a way easy and clear for all students.

Class Goals and Objectives:

•To be able to understand the concept of singing in rounds. Students will sing a specified part independently in a large group using a song that is sung in rounds.

Materials:

•Are You Sleeping Brother John:

Are You Sleeping

Are You Sleeping

Brother John (next group comes in)

Brother John

Morning Bells Are Ringing (next group comes in)

Morning Bells Are Ringing

Ding Dong Ding

Ding Dong Ding

•Piano

Procedures:

- 1.) The instructor will give an introduction to harmony.
- 2.) The instructor will give a brief history of the tune “Are You Sleeping Brother John?”. The song is a French nursery song entitled Frere Jacques.
- 3.) The instructor will then sing the tune “Are You Sleeping Brother John?” as the students keep the beat on their knees.
- 4.) The instructor will break the song into four parts (chunking) to learn: she will sing a phrase

and the class will repeat.

5.) Students will be asked to sing “Are You Sleeping Brother John?” with the instructor as everyone keeps the beat. This will be repeated until the students have the song mastered. The instructor will know this after she lies out to listen.

6.) Students will then sing the song (still keeping the beat) as the teacher models the second part so that students learn when to come in.

7.) Class will be split into two parts and one will sing the first harmony then the second will sing the second harmony along with the instructor.

8.) The instructor will ask where there are parts with harmony.

9.) Instructor will then lie out and let the students sing together to listen to the two harmonies.

10.) Students will continue to sing the two parts as the teacher models the third part so students learn when it begins and ends and fits within the other two parts.

11.) Students will be divided into three groups and the instructor will have the first part start followed by the second and then have the third group of students sing along with the instructor as they are to come in.

12.) The instructor will ask where there are parts with harmony.

13.) The instructor will then have the students sing the three parts alone in rounds a few times with a beat as the instructor walks around to listen to all parts.

14.) Finally, the instructor will have the students sing the song in the same groups in rounds this time without the beat as the instructor walks around to listen.

Follow Up and Assessment:

- Assessment will be informal as the instructor will walk around listening to all parts at the correct measures and pitches and observing each student. Also, she will ask where there is harmony. Follow up will include singing songs with different lyrics in the rounds to identify more clearly where each part goes.