

SEASONS AND SPECIAL DAYS with Orff and Drum

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1. Leaves are Falling







Level: Grades 3-4

Objectives: Singing with Orff accompaniment, meter of 6/8, descending ostinati, descending glissando, rit., and creative movement.

Teaching Suggestions:

- 1. Students are sitting down on the floor. The students tap three times on their right leg (RLR) and then three times on their left leg (LRL) while the teacher sings the melody. Students continue tapping and join in singing the melody with the teacher. Students may sway right and left as they pat the pattern.
- 2. Students pat the rhythm of the soprano and alto xylophone parts with alternating mallets. Students will pat three times on their right leg (RLR), three times on their left leg (LRL) and then pat JJ and J on the floor beside their left leg (RLR,L). Students read the absolute pitches needed and sing pitch names while patting the patttern. Students practice and play the part on the soprano and alto xylophones. Sing the song again with the soprano and alto xylophones.
- 3. Students pat the rhythm of the bass xylophone part (pat R, pat L, crossover R and pat the floor, est). Hold both mallets up in the air for the rest. Is the bass xylophone part descending or ascending? Do leaves ascend or descend when they fall? Students read the absolute pitches needed for the bass xylophone part and sing the pitch names as they pat the pattern. Practice and play the pattern on the bass xylophone. Sing again with all the xylophones. Add the finger cymbal part as indicated in the score and practice it with the bass xylophone part. These two parts have complementary rhythms and should be practiced together.
- 4. Students pat the rhythm of the bass bar part (pat R, rest, pat L, rest). Mallets should be in the air for the rest and alternate mallets. Students read the absolute pitch needed and sing the pitch name while patting the pattern. Students practice and play the part on the bass bar. Sing again with all the previously learned parts.
- 5. Teacher demonstrates how to play the glissando on the soprano and alto glockenspiels. Is the glissando descending or ascending? Students practice playing the glissandos. Let all the students practice the glissando just for fun. Sing the song again with all the parts.
- 6. Discuss and practice the ritard beginning in measure 19. Sing again with all the parts and the ritard in measure 19-21.

Suggested form:

- 1. BB, BX, and finger cymbal (2 measures)
- 2. Add SX/AX (2 measures)
- 3. Add SG/AG (2 measures)
- 4. Add song
- 5. Observe the ritard in measures 19-21.

Movement: Choose a few students to be trees and have them hold paper leaves in their hands. During the song they sway their branches to the beat. The paper leaves may fall at any point during the song but save some leaves to fall on the last glissando at the end of the song. Other students may hold scarves and pretend to be the breeze. They may make wind sounds as they move around among the trees. The students create their own falling leaf drama. Switch parts until everyone has had a turn to be either the actors, the singers, or the instrument players.



30. Summer Days





Level: Grades 3-4

Objectives: Triple meter, partner clap game, complementary rhythms, introduction, interlude, and singing with Orff accompaniment.

Teaching Suggestions:

- 1. Students stand in scatter formation facing a partner and perform the following partner clap: Pat own lap, clap own hands, pat both partner's hands. Practice the pattern. Discuss the triple meter.
- 2. The teacher sings the song and the students continue the partner clap pattern.
- 3. The students sing the song and continue the partner clap pattern.
- 4. Students speak and pat the rhythm of the triangle and shaker part using rhythm syllables. Students practice and play the part on the appropriate instruments. Sing again with the triangles, shakers, and the partner clap. The triangle and the shakers have complementary rhythms and should be practiced together.
- 5. Students speak and pat the rhythm of the conga drum part using rhythm syllables. Students pat the rhythm with the text for the conga drum part. Choose students to play the conga drum and sing again with the conga drum, the triangles, and the shakers.
- 6. Students speak and pat the rhythm of all the other Orff parts using rhythm syllables. Students read the absolute pitches needed for each part. Students sing pitch names while patting the rhythm for each part. Students practice and play each part on the appropriate instrument. The bass xylophone and the soprano and alto xylophone parts have complementary rhythms and should be practiced together to help the students know when to play their parts. Alternate mallets whenever possible. Each time a new part is added, sing the song again with all the previously learned parts.
- 7. Divide the class into two groups. Group one will play the instruments and group two sing and perform the partner clap. During the interlude partners have four measures to find a new partner. Encourage students to find a new partner for every verse.
- 8. Switch groups and repeat the partner clap game with new instrument players. Suggested form:
 - 1. Triangle and shakers (2 measures) 2. Add
- 2. Add BX and BB (2 measures)
- 3. Add SX/AX and SG/AG (2 measures)

- 4. Add Conga drum (2 measures)
- 5. Verse one

6. Interlude

7. Verse two

8. Interlude

9. Verse three

10. Interlude

11. Interlude and last measure

Note: Students may want to speak the text of the instrument parts that have text while playing their instruments.

Extension: Students may want to make up a fancy partner hand clap showing the triple meter.

Appendix

Orff Instruments

SX Soprano Xylophone

AX Alto Xylophone

BX Bass Xylophone

BB Bass Bars

SG Soprano Glockenspiel

AG Alto Glockenspiel

AM Alto Metallophone

Unpitched Percussion - Woods, metals, skins, and shakers

Woods wood blocks, temple blocks, guiro, vibra slap, rhythm sticks,

claves, slap stick, and sand blocks

Metals triangle, finger cymbals, cowbell, chime tree, and Agogo bells

Skins hand drums, conga drums, djembe drums, low drums, and bongo drums

T=Tone (play on the rim of the drum) B=Bass (play in the center of the drum)

Shakers maracas, rainstick, and tambourines

Pentatonic Scales in this book

C pentatonic C,D,E,G,AG pentatonic G,A,B,D,EF pentatonic F,G,A,C,D