

Clay County Music Educators - January 30, 2015

Singing To Learn

Brent Holl

Description

Using canons and songs with movement, Orff instruments and recorders, we can learn the basics of singing in choir. This workshop highlights the basics of good choral singing: Posture, Breathing, Consonants, Vowels, and Rhythm. We'll discuss process, materials, and techniques and we'll sing and move and play!

This workshop is designed especially to foster reading skills using locomotor skills, singing and rhythmic activities. The activities are appropriate for elementary through middle school including special learners.

Focus: Orff process, active singing; instrument accompaniment for songs; movement with song: Grades 4 - 8

**Note to workshop participants:**

Please feel free to use anything in these notes written or arranged by Brent Holl for your own professional use in class or workshops. Simply make sure that the following notice is on each copy.

© Brent M. Holl, 2015. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

For all other materials permission must be obtained from the copyright holder.

These notes are available online for download at <http://bppub.com/BMH/wkspinfo.html>

This workshop has been presented by:



Brent M. Holl  
302 East College Street  
Bridgewater, Va. 22812  
540-478-4833  
brentholl@mac.com  
www.brentholl.com



Find more free stuff at  
<http://bit.ly/BPPFreeStuff>

Download the  
workshop notes  
from Brent's website

***“If I knew I had eight hours to cut a tree, I’d spend six of them sharpening the axe.” - Abraham Lincoln***

**Posture** - “The position of the limbs or the carriage of the body as a whole.” - Random House Collegiate Dictionary.

## The Four Points of Posture:

- Both Feet on the floor with body in balance.
- Ears to toes in a straight line. (Back Straight? Not really!)
- Head and Shoulders in a neutral, balanced position.
- The carriage of the body should be alert, but RELAXED.

## POSTURE

BRENT M. HOLL

The po - si - tion, po - si - tion, po - si - tion of the limbs, limbs, limbs, or the

car-riage, car-riage, car-riage of the bo-dy, bo-dy, bo-dy, as a whole, as a whole.

The Random House College Dictionary Revised Edition (1975). Reprinted with permission.

© 2006 BRENT M. HOLL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

- Ostinatos:
- Back straight, feet on the floor!
- Head and shoulders neutral, baby...
  
- The use of ostinatos is very typical in the Orff process. The benefits include:
- Immediate positive results with reasonably complicated material.
- Helps with class management by keeping everyone involved and focused.
- Builds memory.
- Builds confidence and helps overcome shyness.
- Promotes a feeling of working together in an ensemble and listening to each other.

# The Four Points of Breath:

- ☞ Breathe deeply with the diaphragm.
- ☞ Breathe on the vowel sound so no one can hear.
- ☞ Control the exhale to support the sound.
- ☞ Maintain a relaxed but alert facial and body posture.

## BREATHE

BRENT M. HOLL

1 2

Breathe in deep to sing this song, Sit up straight and sing out strong,

3 4

Take a breath no one can hear and sing a plea-sant song of cheer!

Detailed description: The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song. The first line has a '1' above the first measure and a '2' above the second measure. The second line has a '3' above the first measure and a '4' above the second measure. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

© 2006 BRENT M. HOLL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Add the accompaniment!

SX

AX

Woodblock

Triangle

BX

Detailed description: This block contains five staves of accompaniment notation, all in treble clef, key of D major, and 4/4 time. The staves are labeled SX, AX, Woodblock, Triangle, and BX. SX and AX have melodic lines with rests. Woodblock and Triangle have rhythmic patterns. BX has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The notation includes repeat signs at the beginning and end of the piece.

# The Four Points of Vowels:

- ☞ Vowel formation is essential.
- ☞ Singing the Vowels colors the tone from dark to light.
- ☞ Vowels are sung "North and South."
- ☞ Singing vowels opens the voice and releases the head tone.

## HUSH LITTLE BABY

BRENT M. HOLL

1. 

1. Hush lit - tle ba - by, don't you cry.  
2. An - gels\_\_ guard\_ you while you sleep.  
3. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu,

3. 

4. You'll be an an - gel by\_\_ and\_\_ by.  
Pray to the Lord your soul\_\_ to\_\_ keep.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu.

© 2006 BRENT M. HOLL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Add the accompaniment!

SG/AG 

SM/AX 

AM/AX 

BM/BX 

# The Four Points of Consonants:

- ☛ Consonants make it easy to understand words.
- ☛ Consonants highlight the rhythm.
- ☛ Consonants must be articulated "Al Dente."
- ☛ Consonants are fun to practice with Tongue Twisters!

## SOME LIKE IT!

BRENT M. HOLL

1. 2. 3. 4.

Some. like it cold and some like it hot! But  
 some\_ just don't like it wheth-er or not!

© 2006 BRENT M. HOLL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Add the accompaniment:

SG/AG  
 AX  
 Cowbell  
 Guiro  
 Claves  
 Bass Drum  
 BX

***And Finally, Rhythm!***

# Laugh Canon

Brent M. Holl

1. 2.

Soprano Recorder  
 Ha ha ha ha, hee hee, hoh hoh, hoo hoo.

Hand Drum

SR  
 Ha ha ha ha, hee hee hee hee, hoh hoh hoh hoh, hoo!

HD

**Process:**

- Read the Hand Drum Rhythm at sight using rhythm syllables of choice.
- Transfer to body percussion. Use a variety of sounds letting the timbre reinforce the strong and weak beats. Play in 2-part canon.
- Read the melody rhythm at sight using rhythm syllables or numbers, then letter names. Sing letter names in 2-part canon.
- Transfer to recorders. Play in 2-part canon.
- Add the text and sing the canon in unison reinforcing the vowels and good breathing technique with the aspirate "H."
- Sing and Play drum part and melody in unison, then 2-part canon.

*Add movement:*

- Move in one direction for every four measures in self-space (down, around, up, sway). The directions can be extended with arm and hand movements.
- Expand the movements to shared space with a partner. Use locomotor movement in different directions (forward, backward, sideways), changing direction every 4 measures.
- Perform as a song with movement and hand drums. 2 groups, each includes recorders, singers, and drummers.
- Try this body percussion routine: (From bottom to top: step, patsch left, patsch right, clap, bass tone.)