

Oats, Peas, Beans

Traditional American
arr. Robert A. Amchin

Score for the first system of "Oats, Peas, Beans".

Voice: Oats, peas, beans, and bar - ley grow. Oats, peas, beans, and bar - ley grow.
First the farm - er plants the seeds. First the farm - er plants his seeds.

Soprano Glockenspiel: Accompaniment for the first system.

Alto Xylophone: Accompaniment for the first system.

Hand Drum: Accompaniment for the first system.

Bass Xylophone: Accompaniment for the first system.

Score for the second system of "Oats, Peas, Beans", starting at measure 5.

V: 5
You or I or an - y - one knows how oats, peas, beans, and bar - ley grow.
Stamps his foot and claps — his hand and turns a - round to see the land.

SG: Accompaniment for the second system.

AX: Accompaniment for the second system.

HD: Accompaniment for the second system.

BX: Accompaniment for the second system.

Oats, Peas, Beans (Southern USA)

Background

The origins of this traditional American planting song can be traced to the 1400's in many languages. Having been heard through the ages and with several versions, the song is clearly related to May festivals and the planting season.

Concepts

Compound Meter / Quarter and Eighth Note Patterns / Mi - Re - Do / Fa - Mi - Re / I - IV - V / Strophic Form

Suggested Process

- Sing the song for the children first indicating the three types of grains described in the song.
- Identify the melodic patterns of each phrase.
- Notate these phrases first as melodic contours and then on a staff.
- Encourage the class to sing the phrases while moving to the contour of the melody.
- Teach the class to sing the phrases using hand signs.
- Sing the entire song while pantomiming motions that illustrate the text of the song.

Explore the Accompaniment

- Introduce the Bass Xylophone part vocally using solfege (Do, Fa, and Sol).
- Transfer to bass xylophone.
- Invite students to play the Bass Xylophone part while introducing the Alto Xylophone part by singing, using a visual.

Spring, plant in the spring. Spring, plant in the spring.

5 Spring, plant in the spring. Spring, plant in the spring.

- Introduce the following rhythm using body percussion.

Chant (Patschen)

Oats, beans, let's plant the beans. Let's plant the peas.

5 Oats, beans, let's plant the beans. Let's plant the peas.

- Invite students to choose an instrument that fits this text (hand drum is suggested in the score).
- Perform the song with the Bass, Alto, and Hand Drum parts.
- Add the Glockenspiel part.
- Perform the entire arrangement as suggested below.

Performance Suggestions

- A Sing Verse 1.
- B Sing Verse 2.
- Coda Perform the accompaniment while pantomiming the actions suggested in the song.