

Some Suggestions for Song Singing

Song – Here comes a bluebird (150 American Folksongs)

*Here comes a bluebird *through the window
Hey, diddle dum a day day day.
Take a little partner hop in the garden
Hey, diddle dum a day day day.*

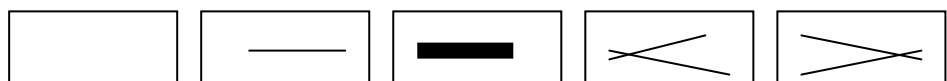
- ♪ Teach the song by rote giving a clear starting note
- ♪ Sing the song a few times to see that it has been learned correctly
- ♪ Pick out ostinato or repeated motif. Explain that ostinato comes from the Italian obstinate so that this little motif is repeated throughout the song.
- ♪ There may be more than one suggested ostinato so explore the options
- ♪ Perform the song with a group taking the ostinato
- ♪ Pick a drone note and get a group to hold that while the song is being sung
- ♪ Perform the song with drone and ostinato

Points for teaching the song

- Give a clear starting note using voice or instrument
- Point out that the song is easy because of repetition of words and tune
- Point out that the range is suitable for mid classes
- Some people may recognise that the song is a pentatonic song i.e. that it has only 5 notes d,r,m,s,l.

Extension ideas

- ♪ Walk or step the pulse of the song
- ♪ Clap the rhythm of the song
- ♪ Sing the song as a round with group 2 starting at *
- ♪ Clap the song in canon
- ♪ Leave out (sing in your head) some of the words e.g. day, day, day.
- ♪ Get a conductor and arranger from the class to arrange and conduct the song. You could use cards on the blackboard to show what is required.



Silence

quiet

loud

get louder

getsofter

- ♪ Use the song to explore the intervals s,s,l,s,m m,r,d.
- ♪ Use pictures for special needs children to remind them of the words
- ♪ Add percussion for the drones or ostinato
- ♪ The elements of music could be teased out
 - Pulse, rhythm, dynamics, structure, texture

(see Teacher Guidelines p70.... for notes on Teaching a Song)