

Orff Without the Instruments

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ORFF COMPONENTS: Instrumental ostinati; speech

No Instruments? Substitute other instruments for Orff instruments

Resonator bells for glockenspiel

Handchimes or piano keys for Alto Xylophone

Boomwhackers for Bass Metallophone – add octivator caps

EXAMPLE: Little David Play Your Harp

Little David Play Your Harp

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Musical score for the first system of "Little David Play Your Harp". It features a vocal line and three instrumental lines. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "Lit-tle Da - vid play on your harp Ha le lu, ha le lu, Lit tle Da vid". The instrumental lines are for Soprano Glockenspiel, Alto Xylophone, and Bass Metallophone. The Soprano Glockenspiel line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. The Alto Xylophone line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. The Bass Metallophone line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter rest.

Musical score for the second system of "Little David Play Your Harp". It features a vocal line and three instrumental lines. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "play on your harp ha le lu." with a fermata over the final note. The instrumental lines are for SG (Soprano Glockenspiel), AX (Alto Xylophone), and BM (Bass Metallophone). The SG line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. The AX line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. The BM line has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter rest.

ORFF COMPONENTS: Chant with speech ostinati; Transfer speech to instruments; Movement

EXAMPLE: White Socks

Assign ostinati to small groups

If desired, transfer the ostinati to handheld percussion

ORFF COMPONENTS: Improvisation; Rondo form

EXAMPLE: A Tale of Three Jacks

If children are seated in 3 rows, give each row the same set of instruments.

Row 1 – desk bells (diatonic pitches works with this song)

Row 2 – tennis ball shakers

Row 3 – sticks

- Rondo Form:**
- A – all sing stanza one
 - B – sticks improvise while piano repeats stanza accompaniment
 - A – all sing stanza two
 - C – tennis ball shakers improvise with piano
 - A – all sing stanza three
 - D – bells improvise with piano
 - A – all sing stanza one again (optional)

ORFF COMPONENTS: Speech with body percussion – no instruments needed

EXAMPLES: Scripture Chants

WAM3 Theme Scripture Chant

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The musical notation is presented in three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. There are two 'clap-clap' markings above the staff, each corresponding to a pair of eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Co - los - sians three twen - ty three. Co - los - sians three twen - ty three. What-'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'ev - er your task, put your-selves in - to it as done for the Lord, and not for your mas - ters. Co -'. The third staff concludes the chant with lyrics: 'los - sians three twen - ty three. Co - los - sians three twen - ty three.' and ends with a double bar line. There are two 'clap-clap' markings above the staff, each corresponding to a pair of eighth notes.

If desired, transfer claps to sticks or other percussion.

John 8:12

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4/4

John 8: 12 Je - sus spoke to the peo - ple a - gain.

Pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap

3

He said, "I am the light of the world. Those who fol - low me will ne - ver walk in dark - ness.

3

pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap

5

They will have the light that leads to life. John 8: 12.

5

pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap pat pat clap

In this example, pats may be transferred to drums, and claps to triangle, finger cymbals or woodblock.

CODA

- Using the step-by-step layering of elements is the Orff process of learning. This can be applied in many ways without the expense of purchasing Orff instruments.
- If you want to add Orff instruments to your resources, consider adding one or two per year to your budget. (Use these in public venues so that parents and others may see them and possibly offer to purchase more!)
- Find a safe location for storage.
- Educate your volunteers on the proper use of the instruments.
- My source of Orff instruments: West Music (westmusic.com)