

# Embers of Vocal Training

## Ways to Teach Pitch Successfully

- 1) Visual Melody – this is Visual Vocalises, song charts, and anything that helps children visually see which direction their voice should be moving. This is also any physical thing like steps.
- 2) Pure Melody – without the CD. Yes, you read that right – without the CD. You can still make choir fun with fun songs that have cool upbeat CD trax. However when teaching a song, let the kids hear a pure melody first; rather than buried underneath a trax full of instrumentation.
- 3) Ear Melody – scale songs and vocalizes. Listening to melody on instruments without other instruments or sounds being present.
- 4) Body Melody – This is using the body to give melodic direction or movements to enforce lyrics. The Body Scale.
- 5) Instrument melody – apply the melody to a melodic instrument.(a phrase at a time if need be for success.

## Ways to Listen Successfully

- 1) Listen for a repetitive word in the song and assign an action to it.
- 2) Looking at the music see if the children can identify repeated phrases (words or melodies)
- 3) Look for songs where the instructions are sung. Transitions or fun songs.
- 4) If a song is wordy and doesn't have repeated phrases use motions or body exercises.
- 5) Apply the melody to a melodic or rhythm instrument.
- 6) When learning the melody without the CD, use the trax for instrument activities and or steady beat activities.

## Visual Melody - Vocal Exercises and Scale Songs

- Teach the four voices.

Singing, Whispering, Speaking, and Outside Voice

- Story Sounds / Vocal Exploration
- Use vocal energizers to explore the range of the voice and sing in head tone.
- There is a *wrong* way to warm-up.

## Pure Melody - Pitch

There is an order to teaching pitch.

- First we learn *sol, mi*.
- Sing up to desired pitch and down.
- Second teach do, re, mi
- Third add fa by singing from 1 up to 5 and back down.
- Identify higher/lower pitches and/or melodic direction
- Use movement to represent melodic direction or represent melody visually
- Match simple intervals and patterns alone and with others.
- Learn to use good sitting and standing singing posture.

## Ear Melody – Ear Training

- Identify the difference (in the ear) of same, step, or skip intervals.
- Distinguish same/different short melody phrases
- Sing short solo phrases of call/response songs or a stanza as class sings refrain.

## Body Melody – Body Scale and Steady Beat

- It is a precursor to instrument playing as well as matching pitch.  
*Steady Beat – The author Helen Kemp writes that \_\_\_\_\_ for pitch is steady beat.*
- Every rehearsal should have a steady beat activity.
- Helps brain development; teaches coordination and helps children learn to focus and listen.
- Where's the beat? (How do you find steady beat when they have no beat all? Oh gloom, no beats and agony on me!) Start with a strong beat.

## Instrumental Melody - Part Singing and more Steady Beat

All of the following exercises are precursors to part-singing or acquiring the skill as a step to part singing.

- Move and sing simultaneously.

- Sing/play repeated patterns as others sing a song. (Ostinati)
- Sing partner songs
- Play simple I, IV, V chordal accompaniment.
- Internalize beginning of phrases and sing only the endings.
- Sing a short song as a two part round.

## **What does the Bible say about singing?**

2 Chronicles 5:13 “The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.” Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud.”

Psalms 96 “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.....”

1 Chronicles 16:9 “Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.”

Psalms 33:1 “Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.”