



Steps to Part Singing

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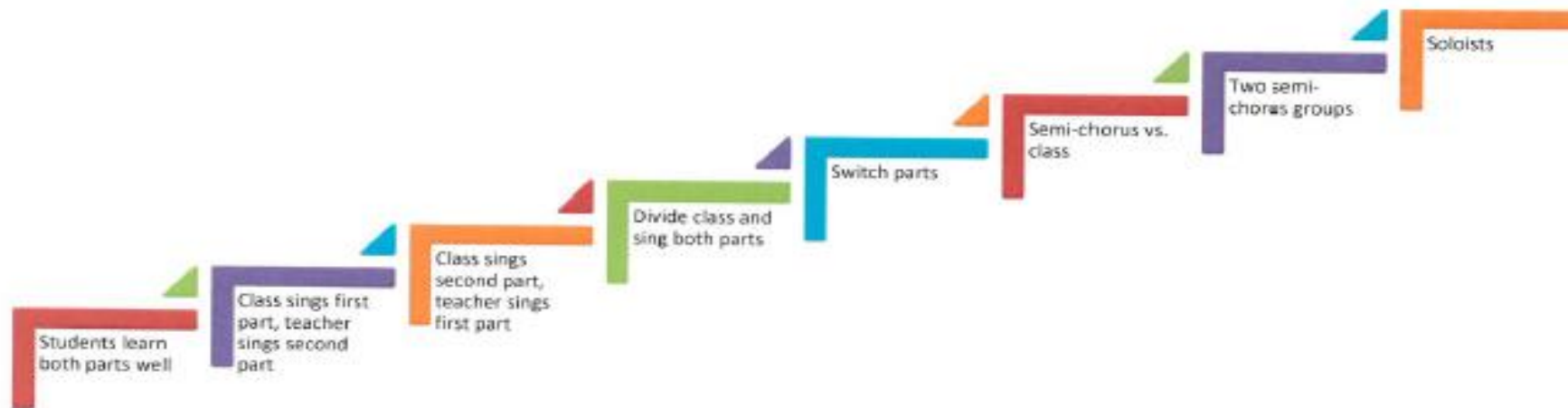
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Steps to Part Singing



Teaching Procedure for Part-Singing



Scope and Sequence in an Ideal Setting

- ▶ Grades K-2: In-tune singing, Songs with Beat and Rhythm, Shared Melody Songs, Simple Ostinatos and Rounds
- ▶ Grades 3-6: All of the above at a more complicated level, Rounds, Descants Partner Songs, and begin transition to parallel two-part harmony
- ▶ Grades 7-8: All of the above. Three part songs with independent parts, and continue transition to parallel two- and three-part singing. Make transition to Three-Part Mixed, SAB, and SATB if possible, navigating the changing male voice.
- ▶ Reinforce with lots of repertoire and singing experiences. Once you have introduced styles of part-writing, you can go back and forth in all sorts of repertoire!

Other Considerations!

Treble 1 and Treble 2

- ▶ Avoid the terms “soprano” and “alto” if you can!
- ▶ Switch sections! Children should have opportunities to sing both melody and harmony.
- ▶ Mix experienced singers with less-experienced singers.
- ▶ Work for good balance.

Changing Boy's Voices

- ▶ Evaluate on an individual basis.
- ▶ Boys in early stages of vocal change can usually sing the harmony parts at pitch level.
- ▶ Boys in mid stages of vocal change may be better off singing the melody one octave lower.
- ▶ If you're lucky, you can do three-part mixed music or even SAB/SATB!

Back Up? Stay put? Move ahead?

Back up!

- ▶ The children are struggling even after much practice.
- ▶ The sound is “fuzzy” and not clearly in tune.
- ▶ You’ve rehearsed the harmony part a million times and it still doesn’t hold together when the melody is added.
- ▶ The children are frustrated or discouraged.

Move ahead!

- ▶ Your children are learning choral works quickly.
- ▶ Your children are singing in parts without tons of reinforcement.
- ▶ Your children are singing part-work clearly and in-tune.
- ▶ Your children are “chomping at the bit” for more part-singing experiences.

Where can you incorporate part-singing?

- ▶ In your general music class
- ▶ As a sung prayer before lunch or at dismissal
- ▶ In your children's choral rehearsal as part of your warm-ups (Check out *Total Choir Resources* and choral warm-up books)
- ▶ In your children's choral rehearsal using appropriate repertoire