

Global Music Lesson Plans

Songs of greeting – Congo, New Zealand & UK

For ages range 7-11.

Time required:

One or two 50 minute lessons.

Activity:

Performing and comparing songs of greeting i.e. a Maori Haka, the Congolese song ‘Si, Si, Si’, and the English choral anthem: ‘Welcome, vicegerent of the mighty king’ by Henry Purcell.

Aims:

- To introduce what is meant by the term “lyrics” and how lyrics can reflect the purpose, time and place in which they were written.
- To explore how the melody reflects the lyrics of a song.
- To explore how musical structures are used in song.

Pupils will learn:

- To understand rhythmic patterns and repeating rhythmic patterns.
- How to compose music using rhythmic ostinati based on a spoken phrase.
- How to chant rhythmically and maintain a part in a group of a greeting song.

Web links you will need:

- A video of the New Zealand ‘All Blacks’ rugby team performing a Haka.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g3QbH_i2VU
- Recording of ‘Welcome, Viceregent of the Mighty King’ by Henry Purcell (a welcome song for Charles II, 1680). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZldYbCZeIY>
- Further information about the [history and performance of Haka](#) (for extension activity).

Other resources you will need:

The Haka ‘Uhi Tai’ Lyrics Sheet (provided below).

Words, music and midi file of the Congolese greeting song ‘Si Si Si’ (provided on the Si Si Si Worksheet below). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SqYKetxD9A>

Useful Information

Songs of greeting are a feature of almost every culture across the globe and are a musical tradition that is understood universally. This activity links three very different songs of greeting exploring how a global genre can lead to very different outcomes and styles depending upon the context for which they were composed.

Songs of greeting can be joyful, dance-like, energetic, regal, grandiose, celebratory or frightening depending on the context for which they were composed. The Congolese song 'Si, Si, Si' is a song of welcome between friends and exemplifies the first of these features. 'Welcome, vicegerent of the mighty king' by the English composer Henry Purcell is a song of welcome for a King. The Maori Haka is a ritual chant with actions that is performed at a variety of first encounters e.g. a battle (or more recently a sporting event such as a rugby match) or the meeting and greeting of two tribes and is quite simply intended to frighten the visitors out of their wits!

| Lesson plan | Songs of greeting – Congo, New Zealand & UK (Age range 7-11) |
|-------------|---|
| Starter | <p>Watch the video of the New Zealand 'All Blacks' rugby team performing a Haka. Discuss with the class:</p> <p>What is the purpose of the chant? (Answer = a greeting chant).</p> <p>How do the team members use their voices and their bodies to convey meaning? Is there a strong beat? Which part of the world do they think this kind of chant originates from? (Answer = New Zealand and Polynesia).</p> <p>How would the pupils feel if they were in the opposing team watching it?</p> <p>Point out that the chant is a Haka, which is a ritual greeting song that is part of the Maori culture from New Zealand. It is usually chanted prior to a battle or as part of a greeting ceremony between tribes, the intention being to frighten and intimidate the enemy or newcomers.</p> |
| Main | <p>Performing a 'Haka'</p> <p>Display or distribute copies of the Haka 'Uhi Tai' Lyrics Sheet (below). Read through the words of the chant together rhythmically, avoiding being prescriptive about the way in which the words should be expressed. Next, divide the class into groups of six or eight and ask each group to work out how they want to chant the Haka. Remind them that the purpose of the Haka is to frighten visitors!</p> <p>Get each of the groups chant the Haka. Ask the other groups to appraise the effectiveness of the performances. For example, did they keep together? Could you hear the words? Was the performance frightening?</p> <p>Performing 'Si, si, si'</p> <p>Listen to the Congolese greeting song Si Si Si (above). Ask pupils to find and tap the pulse of the song. Next, take a group of words such as: 'si-ne la-du ba-na'. Clap the rhythm of the words and then transfer the rhythm on to drums.</p> <p>Perform it as an ostinato accompaniment to the song.</p> |

| | |
|---------|--|
| | <p>Discuss the mood of 'Si, si, si'. How does the song compare with the Haka? How would this song make the visitor feel? Which do they think would be most appropriate to sing at a welcome ceremony? Why?</p> <p>Point out that songs of greeting are a particular song genre, and that they feature in many diverse cultures. However, the social context of the greeting influences the mood and the performance of the song. This is exemplified in the Haka and 'Si, si, si' - two songs of similar purpose but very different character.</p> <p>Extension</p> <p>Find out more about the history and performance of Haka. The Haka feature on this web link includes an explanation of some of the movements as well as a video of a traditional Haka. This information could form the basis for pupils creating movements to the Haka that they performed as part of the lesson.</p> |
| Plenary | <p>To help pupils understand how the social context of each greeting song influences the mood and performance, brainstorm quickly with the pupils what they would think would be the musical features and characteristics of a song composed as a greeting for an English King.</p> <p>Listen to an extract from a recording of 'Welcome, Viceregent of the Mighty King' by Henry Purcell (a welcome song for Charles II, 1680). How did it compare to their ideas, and to the Haka or 'Si, si, si'?</p> |

Worksheet: Si Si Si

Si Si Si

Congolese song of welcome

A

Voice

Si - si, Si - si. Do - la - da, Ya - ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha.

5

Voice

Si - si, Si - si, Do - la - da, Ya ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha. Ba - na

B

9

Voice

ha, Ba - na - ha, Ya - ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha. Ba - na -

13

Voice

ha, Ba - na - ha, Ya - ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha.

17

C

Voice

Ham ba - na - ha, Ya - ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha.

21

Voice

Ha, ba - na - ha, Ya - ku si - ne la - du ba - na - ha.

DC. al Fine

Extension: perform Si, Si, Si as follows: Section A, Section B, Section C, Section A, Sections B&C together, Section A

Listen to the melody of Si Si Si (above)

Worksheet: The Haka 'Uhi Tai' Lyrics Sheet

This is a haka that was written specifically for 161 Battery in 1972 by Bombardier Tawhiwhi Brown who was a Vietnam veteran.

(Leader) Tena Taka he ya!
(Everyone)
Uhi Tai! Uhi Tai! Yaaa!
Uhi Tai! Uhi Tai! Yaaa!
Uhi Tai! Uhi Tai! Yaaa!
Uhi Tai! Uhi Tai! Yaaa!
Uhi Tai una koha!!!
E he mana kai Pap-a-kur-a!!!
E tu tuki tu wai wai!!!
Ki te poru to ma-hin-ga!!!
Uhi Tai! Uhi Tai!