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Rounds 24 Rounds for Young and Intermediate Voices

Twice

A

Kerri Lynn Nichols

Beatin' Path Publications, LLC

BPP-KTAR



This book is dedicated to nurturing community through song. Special thanks to the members of The Olympia Peace Choir and teachers in my workshops for providing the inspiration for these compositions.

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On a Breeze



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- ► Once melody is known well, play piece in canon.
- ► While B Section is an interlude, it can also be sung as part of canon.
- ► Add triangles, wind chimes, or finger cymbals to orchestration.
- ► Create movement with scarves or streamers; perform in unison and canon.
- ► Improvise movements during B Section.
- ► Sing in eight parts (enter after each measure).





Hey, Ho, Nobody Home!

- ► Sing in three- or five-part round (enter after each measure).
- ► Create contrasting section with unpitched percussion and dance.
- ► Use found sounds (brooms, cans, buckets, etc.) to compose an accompaniment or improvise.



Suggestions

- ► Add movement for each phrase when teaching song.
 - ▷ "I know you" = thumbs point to self, then to partner
 - ▷ "You know me" = point to partner, then to self
 - ▷ "We are as happy" = open arms to gesture to class, shake open hands by ears
 - ▷ "we can be!" = gesture to all and fold arms on "be!"
- ► Play melody on barred instrument.
- ► To create contrasting section, improvise in C pentatonic (C, D, E, G, A) while keeping pulse or bordun.
- ▶ Perform *a cappella*.

Partner Game

- ▶ Phrase One: pat, clap, pat palms, clap; Phrase Two: pat, clap, pat backs of hands, clap;
- ▶ Phrase Three: pat, clap, pat palms, pat backs; Phrase Four: pat, clap, fold arms.

Waves Flow In

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- ► Sing melody with words; repeat using "loo."
- ► Sing as four-part round, then as eight-part round, entering after each measure.
- ► Walk pulse while singing; change direction at phrase end.
- ► Create arm movements for words.
- ► Create movement reflective of the sea (turning, rolling, spinning, forward/back, sway, expand/ contract, etc.). Use high, middle, and low levels.
- ► Create an ocean of movement with scarves or Spandex[®] fabric.
- ► Improvise in G minor pentatonic (G, Bb, C, D, F).
- ► Improvise ocean sounds with voices.
- ► Rub skin of hand drum to create wavelike sounds (palm, fingertips, nails, in a circle, back and forth).



Earth Song



- ► Perform in eight parts (enter after every two beats).
- ► Form: unison, two parts, four parts, eight parts.
- ► Choreograph dance for each phrase in circle formation.
- ► Create in small groups poem or improvisation for each of the four elements: fire, water, earth, sky.











Suggestions

- ► Create "scene" based on lyrics: characters could be sun, star, moon, clouds, wind, friend, or dreams. Use scarves, fabric, and other props or costumes.
- ► Play as an instrumental piece; choreograph circle or partner dance.
- ► Improvise in D minor pentatonic (D, F, G, A, C).
- ► Develop C Section by transferring vocal and instrument parts to body percussion.

BX

Evening Sun Is Gone

In Harmony



- ► Play bass clef of Piano Part on bass xylophone. Play treble clef of Piano Part on soprano glockenspiel.
- ► Improvise on soprano recorder or barred instruments in B flat pentatonic (Bb, C, D, F, G).
- ► Form: unison, two-part round, instrumental, three-part round
- ► Transfer rhythms to unpitched percussion.

Shine Through You

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- ▶ Sing song in unison, then as round.
- ► Add sign language or movements for each phrase while singing.
- ► Teach accompaniment through body percussion.
- ► Add guitar or ukulele accompaniment.
- ► Create B Section. Improvise with metallophones or glockenspiels using B minor pentatonic (B, D, E, F#, A).

How To Write a Simple Round

1. Use a Block Chart to build a rhythmic phrase based on pulse.

1	2	2	4	5	6	7	0
I		5	4	5	0	1	0

- 3. Begin with 4/4 meter. The strong beat will fall on pulse 1 and 5 in the eight-beat phrase.
- 4. Write your first rounds using an anhemitonic pentatonic scale (for example in C major, C, D, E, G, A).
- 5. Place one note in each box, leaving the last box empty for a rest. This creates a final point. Key: capital letter = lower octave; lower case letter = upper octave.
- 6. The example below is written to sing or play with a drone/bordun accompaniment. The round, therefore, is based on the tonic (home) chord (C, E, G).
- 7. The melody begins on the tonic (home tone). In each phrase, the notes in boxes 1, 5, and 7 must be notes from the home chord (C, E, G) to create cadence.
- 8. Good melodies use mostly steps and few skips. The example below uses steps (2nds) with a few skips (3rds).
- 9. Sing or play this round in two parts. It can also be performed in four or eight parts, depending on the entrance. Every pentatonic song can be sung in a round; this song, however, is designed to highlight triads and parallel harmonies wherever possible.



More examples using different meter, rhythms, and pentatonic modes are found on Page 35. Once you become skilled at writing pentatonic rounds, try your hand at composing a diatonic round. Sometimes rounds are based on a chord progression rather than just the home chord, but this is a more complex process.

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