

HOW TO BEGIN A MUSIC CLASS:

Students enter and go to assigned spots. They remain standing.

T: Claps “ta ta ti ti ta”

S: Echo teacher

T: Continues several more body percussion rhythms as Students echo after Teacher. This could go on for maybe 8 or 10 patterns.

T: Begins with an ascending siren

S: Echo teacher’s siren

T: Continue with descending siren

S: Echo teacher’s descending siren

T: Continue with ascending then an immediate descending siren

S: Echo teacher’s example

T: Sings “So Mi” (Key of F Major) T. uses Curwen signs

S: Echo teacher with sound and hand signs

T: Sings “So Mi La”

S: Echo teacher

T: Sings “So Mi Re Do” with the rhythm “ta ti ti ta rest”

S: Echo teacher

Teacher continues with various melodic phrases and Students echo Teacher.

Teacher gives Students the pitch for “So” and asks them to sing as she leads them through various hand signs. Students sing, Teacher does not unless they just can’t do a pitch. Students do the hand signs as they sing.

IF Teacher is fluent with doing hand signs with both hands, divide the class in half. Have half the class follow the right hand while the other half follows the hand. (This takes practice on your own, teachers, but is a really cool way to have the students sing harmony.) Always begin together on “So” then perhaps have the left hand move to “Mi.” When you get really proficient, try some dissonant patterns.

This entire warm up procedure may take perhaps 8 minutes at the most.