

First, We Sing!

Kodály-Inspired Teaching

For the Music Classroom

About The Revisions

The *First, We Sing!* books reflect a commitment to discovering, documenting and sharing accurate, interesting and useful information about song material used throughout the series. As teachers, we must understand the critical importance of adjusting and reworking curriculum materials as times and the needs of our students change. Ongoing research also provides an opportunity to examine and reconsider widely used “standard” repertoire and to suggest more culturally sensitive and relevant options. Consequently, several books in the *First, We Sing!* series have undergone significant revisions, including the *Teaching Guide* and *Teaching Strategies* for both Primary and Intermediate grades. New editions contain updated song lists and revised lessons for teaching various elements. Purchasers of the original materials can download the updated pages [here](#).



- **Quick Change** – Students read a known song in stick notation from the board. The teacher changes one beat at a time, until the notation has been transformed into that of a new song.
- **Form** – Students analyze the form of song; teacher rearranges the motives to create the next song in the lesson.
- **Partwork** – Rhythmic or melodic fragments from one song are used to create a partwork connection with a different song.

High Concentration: Practice 

S. read “Ding Dong Diggidiggi Dong” from stick notation on the board; identify and sing the song.
sing and conduct in 4 meter.

identify  motives: 

identify the form:

a b a c

Transition: (Part-work)

S. re-arrange motives to create a new counter-rhythm, using the same form.
create melody for the counter-rhythm, using barred instruments set up with a *d r m* tone set.

Moderate Concentration: Prepare re

T. sings “Tideo” on neutral syllable. (S. identify the song.)

ASK: “Which motive matches the words, “Jingle at the window, Tideo.”? 

ASK: “How many notes are in the last word, ‘Ti-de-o’?” (Three)

ASK: “Do they move in steps or skips?” (They move down in steps)

ASK: “Which is the lowest note?” (*do*) “Which is the highest?” (*mi*)

SAY: “The new note is higher than *do*, lower than *mi*, and a step away from both.

S. sing “Tideo” with composed counter-melodies and counter-rhythms played on barred instruments and drums.

Building on Rita Klinger’s work, Dr. Christopher Roberts classified a variety of transitions that can be used in a Kodály-inspired setting. In addition to some of examples above, Roberts’ transition types include those which are verbal (sung and spoken), tonal (including tone set and key relations) rhythmic (including conducting), non-verbal (the “point and do” approach), repertoire connections of form, genre, nationality or ethnicity, language and other text relationships.¹³

¹³ Roberts, Christopher, *Smooth Sailing: Transitions in the Kodály Classroom*. OAKE National Conference pedagogy session presentation notes.

K-5 Suggested Songlist

Selected Songs to Sing, Play, Read & Write

A

A Big Ship Sailing	Alleluia	Apple, Apple, on the Tree
Above a Plain (Ifca's Castle)	All Night, All Day (The Angels Are Watching Over Me)	Apples, Peaches, Pears and Plums
Ah, Poor Bird	All 'Round the Brickyard	A Qua Qua
Ah! Si Mon Moine Voulait Danser	All Through the Night	Arbet (Mitn Zegele)
Alabama Gal	Amassee (I Must See)	Are You Sleeping?
A La Puerta del Cielo	Amazing Grace	Arirang
A La Ronda Ronda	America the Beautiful	As I Sat on a Sunny Bank
A La Víbora de la Mar	Among the Little White Daisies	A-Tisket, A-Tasket
Al Citrón	Andy Pandy	Au Claire de la Lune
All Around the Buttercup	Angel Band, The	Autumn Canon

B

Bandyrowe	Betty Larkin	Bow Wow Wow
Battle Hymn of the Republic, The	Biddy Biddy Hold Fast	Burnie Bee
Bear Went Over the Mountain, The	Birch Tree, The	Busy Buzzy Bee
Bee, Bee, Bumble Bee	Black Snake	Button, You Must Wander
Bell Doth Toll, The	Bluebells, Cockleshells	Bye Baby Bunting
Bethlehem Lay Sleeping	Bonjour, Mes Amis	Bye-lo Baby-o

C

Campanita de Ora	Chatter With the Angels	Cobbler, Cobbler
Cantando y Tocando	Chickalileo	Cock Robin Is Dead
Cape Cod Chanty	Chickama, Chickama, Craney Crow	Coffee Canon, The
Cape Cod Girls	Chicken on a Fencepost	Colorado Trail
Cedar Swamp	Christmas Is Coming	Come Through the Sawmill
Chairs to Mend	Chumbarra	Cornish Wassail
Čhanté Wašté Hokšíla	Circle 'Round the Zero	Crawdad Hole, The
Charlie Over the Ocean	C-Line Woman (See Lyin' Woman)	Cuckoo, Cuckoo
Charlottetown	Closet Key, The	Cut the Cake

D

Dance to Your Daddie	Ding Dong Diggidiggi Dong	Down Came a Lady
Dark as a Dungeon	Do, Do Pity My Case	Down in the Valley
Darling Clementine	Dog and Cat	Down to the Baker's Shop
Deck the Hall	Doña Araña	Draw a Bucket of Water
De Colores	Doña Blanca	Dry Bones Come Skipping
Debajo Un Botón	Donguri Korokoro	Duerme Pronto
Deedle Deedle Dumpling	Doraji	Dúermete
Dic-Dictation	Do Re Mi Fa	
Dillan Bay	Double Double This This	

E

Eachy Peachy Pelly Plum
El Arco Santiago
El Burrito del Teniente

El Florón
El Lobo
El Sube y Baja

Entre Las Matas
Engine, Engine, Number Nine
Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

F

Fais Do Do
Farfallina
Farmer in the Dell, The
Firefly (Tsuki)

For Health and Strength
For the Beauty of the Earth
Four White Horses
Frog in the Meadow

Frosty Weather
Fuzzy Wuzzy

G

Get on Board, Little Children
Go In and Out the Window
Goin' Down to Cairo
Goin' to Boston
Golden Ring Around the Susan Girl
Goodbye, Old Paint
Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Go Tell It on the Mountain
Go to Sleepy
Grand Old Duke of York, The
Great Big House
Green Coffee Grows on White
Oak Trees
Green Gravels

Green, Green the Crabapple Tree
Green Grows the Willow Tree
Greensleeves
Green Sally Up

H

Hasta Pronto
Haul on the Bowline
Hava 'N Shira
Here Comes a Bluebird
Here Comes Mrs. Macaroni
Here Come Two Dukes a-Riding
Hey, Betty Martin
Hey, Hey, Look at Me
Hickory Dickory Dock

Higglety Pigglety
Hill and Gully Rider
Hold the Key (Watch that Lady)
Hole in the Bucket (There's a)
Hop, Old Squirrel
Hope I'll Join the Band
(Chatter with the Angels)
Hot Cross Buns
How Long the Train Been Gone?

Humpty Dumpty
Hush, Hush
(Somebody's Callin' My Name)
Hush Little Minnie
Hush-a-bye
(All the Pretty Little Horses)
Hush Little Baby

I

Ida Red
I Lost the Farmer's Dairy Key
I Love My Little Rooster
I Love the Mountains
I'm Going to Sing
(When the Spirit Says Sing)

I'm on the King's Land
Inés (St. Inez)
In the Bleak Midwinter
I Ride an Old Paint
I See the Moon
I'se the B'ye

It Rained a Mist
I've Been to Harlem
(Turn the Glasses Over)
I Want to Be a Farmer
I Work Upon the Railway

J

Jean, Jean
Jeannie Had a Little Lamb
Johnny Cuckoo
(Here Come One Johnny Cuckoo)
Johnny Get Your Hair Cut

Johnny Works With One Hammer
John the Rabbit
Jolly Is the Miller
Juan Piruelo
Juba

Jubilate Deo
Juguemos En El Bosque
Juniper Tree, The
Just from the Kitchen

K

Keeper, The
King Kong Kitchie

Kitty Kitty Casket
Kookaburra

Knock the Cymbals



L

La Calavera
 Lady, Lady
 La Palomita
 Laudate Nomen Domini
 Laughing, Singing
 La Violette
 Lavender's Blue
 Lead Through That Sugar and Tea

Leila (Shoo My Love)
 Let Us Chase the Squirrel
 Li'l Liza Jane
 Little Black Bull, The
 Little Sally Walker
 Looby Loo
 London Bridge
 Lonesome Valley

Lone Star Trail, The
 Los Patitos
 Los Pollitos
 Love Is Like a Ring
 Love Somebody
 Lucy Locket
 Luna, Lunera

M

Madalina Catalina
 Make New Friends
 Mama, Buy Me a Chiney Doll
 Marching Across the Green Grass
 María Blanca
 Mary Had a Baby
 Mary Had a Little Lamb
 Matarile
 May Day Carol

Merrily We Roll Along
 Michie Banjo
 Miss Mary Jane (Ridin' in the Buggy)
 Mister Rabbit
 Mockingbird Song, The
 (Hush Little Baby)
 Mò li Huā
 Mouse, Mousie
 Music Alone Shall Live

My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean
 My Country, 'Tis of Thee
 My Dog Tree'd a Rabbit
 My Good Old Man
 My Home's in Montana
 My Little Boat
 My Mama's Callin' Me
 My Owlet
 My Singing Bird

N

Naranja Dulce, Limón Partido
 Needle's Eye, The

Nine Hundred Miles

Nottamun Town

O

Ode to Joy
 Oh, How Lovely Is the Evening
 Oh, Sailor, Come Ashore
 Oh, Watch the Stars
 Old Abram Brown
 Old Ark, The
 Old Bald Eagle
 Old Betty Larkin
 Old Brass Wagon, The

Old Chisolm Train, The
 Old King Glory
 Old McDonald
 Old Mister Rabbit
 Old Roger Is Dead
 Old Sow, The
 Old Texas (I'm Going to Leave)
 Old Woman and the Pig, The
 Oleana

Oliver Cromwell
 One-legged Sailor (Did You Ever?)
 One, Two, Three,
 Johnny Caught a Flea
 On the Mountain Stands a Lady
 Oranges and Lemons
 Over in the Meadow
 Over the Sea to Skye

P

Paige's Train
 Pajarito Ton Bonito
 Paw Paw Patch
 Peas in the Pot
 Peas Porridge Hot

Pen Pen de Sarapen
 Perry Merry Dictum
 Phoebe in Her Petticoat
 Pop Goes the Weasel
 Porquoi (Pourquoi)

Pretty Saro
 Push the Business On
 Pumpkin, Pumpkin

Q

Queen, Queen Caroline



R

Rabbit Run
Rain, Come Wet Me
Rain, Rain
Rattlin' Bog, The
Red Are Strawberries

Riddle Song, The
(I Gave My Love a Cherry)
Ridin' in a Buggy
Ring Around the Rosy
Ring, Bells
Rise Up, O Flame

Rissoldi Rossoldy
Rockin' Bye the Baby
Rocky Mountain
'Round and 'Round
Rover
Rueda De San Miguel

S

Sail Away, Ladies
Sailing on the Ocean
Sailor, Sailor
Sailor's Alphabet, The
Sally Down the Alley
Sally Go Round the Sun
Sammy Sackett
San Serafin del Monte
Sansa Kroma
Sarasponda
Scarborough Fair
Scotland's Burning
Scrapin' Up Sand
See Saw, Up and Down
See the Rabbit Running
Seminole Duck Dance

Shady Grove
Shake Them 'Simmons Down
Shalom, Chaverim
Shanghai Chicken
She Wore a Yellow Ribbon
Ship That Never Returned, The
Shoes of John
Shoo, My Love
Si Cantemo
Silent Night
Simple Gifts
Si Si Si
Skating Away
Skin and Bones
Skipping Rope Song
(Early in the Morning)

Skip to My Lou
Skip to the Barbershop
Snail, Snail
Snake Baked a Hoecake, The
Somebody's Knocking at Your Door
Son Macaron
Sourwood Mountain
Star Light, Star Bright
Step Back Baby
Stoopin' on the Window
(Wind the Ball)
Strawberries
Suo Gan
Swapping Song, The
Sweep Away

T

Teddy Bear
Tengo, Tengo (I Have, I Have)
Ten in the Bed
There Was a Man (and He Was Mad)
This Lady She Wears a Bright
Green Shawl

This Old Hammer
This Train
Tideo
Tom Tinker
Train is A-Comin'
Train's Off the Track, The

Tres Hojitas, Madre (Inéz)
Turkey Song, The
Turn the Glasses Over
Tuula Tuula Wakati
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

U

Ugah Ugah Ugah

Una Lorité

Up, Down

V

Vide Vide Vide

Viva L'Amour

Viva la Musica

W

Wade in the Water
Wallflowers
Wayfaring Stranger
Weevily Wheat
Welcome Here
We're Goin' Roun' the Mountain
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

When I'm Dancing
White Coral Bells
White Sand and Grey Sand
Who Killed Cock Robin?
Who Killed the Robin?
Who's Got a Fishpole?
Who's That Tapping at My Window

Who Stole the Cookies?
Why Shouldn't My Goose?
Willowbee
Wind Blow East, The
Wind the Ball
(Stoopin' at the Window)
Wishy Washy

Y

Ye Toop Doram

Z

Zum Gali Gali

Zudio



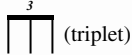

Grade 2	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Review Grade 1*
Known notes in new motives: (<i>la</i> in <i>mi - la</i> turn)	
<i>do</i> <i>so mi do</i> <i>so - do</i> <i>do - clef</i> (F, C and C - <i>do</i>) ledger line		
			
<i>re</i> <i>mi re do</i> (F, C and C - <i>do</i>)					
Staff hand staff
4 meter barlines measures conducting in 4



First and second endings





Grade 3	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Review Grade 2*
Known notes in new motives: (<i>re</i> in <i>re - so</i> turn)	
<i>do</i> pentatonic scale	
Internal anacrusis		
		
Extended pentatone <i>la</i> , (<i>low la</i>) <i>do - la</i> , (<i>do</i> - centered) (<i>la</i> , - centered)				
<i>so</i> , (<i>low so</i>) <i>so</i> , - <i>la</i> , <i>so</i> , - <i>do</i> (<i>do</i> - centered) (<i>la</i> , - centered)					
<i>la</i> , pentatonic scale

<i>do'</i> (<i>high do</i>) <i>la</i> - <i>do'</i> <i>so</i> - <i>do'</i>

Absolute pitch Treble clef (G-clef)		

Grade 4	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Review Grade 3*
Known notes in new motives:
	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
3 meter barlines measures conducting in 3	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
<i>fa</i> so fa mi re do other motives C - do, G - do F - do (B ^b) (key signature)	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
External anacrusis	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
 (triplet)	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
simple vs. compound meter	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*

Grade 5	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Review Grade 4*
Known notes in new motives:
	>>>>>>>>*
	>>>>>>>>*
<i>ti</i> , (low <i>ti</i>) so, la, ti, do other motives F - do, C - do G - do (F [#]) (key signature)	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
Major Scale do - do, Minor Scale la, - la	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
Melodic sequence	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
<i>fi</i>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
<i>si</i>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
6 meter	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
<i>ta</i>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
I - V chords	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
I - IV - V chords	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*
3 9 12 8 8 8 Intervals	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>*

Lesson: 8	Grade: 3			
Objectives Students will:	Practice <i>low la</i> & <i>low so</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aurally identify “poison patterns.” sing a new song containing <i>low la</i> and <i>low so</i>. 	Prepare  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> place text in relation to the beat. derive & notate known rhythms. identify the beat on which four sounds occur. 	Practice  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> read known 8 - beat rhythmic motives in stick notation, from flashcards. identify listening example from its rhythm. read and clap  motives as counter-rhythm. 	
Starting Pitch F – do (F) F – do (F) F – do (F) G – do (G)	Repertoire Dry Bones Come Skipping Old Brass Wagon Tideo Shanghai Chicken	Manipulatives, Board Preparation, Workbooks, Recordings Board: Solfa letter ladder (extended pentatone) rhythm sticks “Miniature Rondo” flashcards (stick notation) rubber chicken shaker eggs wagon text icons tibia (bone for passing) “Poison” sign “silent but deadly” flashcard		
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sing Play Listen Move Improvise Memorize Compare Read Write Notate Arrange Compose Identify Derive Evaluate 	Warm-Up	Echo Singing; Pentatonic Interval Drill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. points to pitches on letter ladder; S. sing in solfa, with hand signs. (T. ends with “Dry Bones” motives) T. points to melodic skeleton on letter ladder; S. sing in solfa with handsigns. 		
	Opening Song	“Dry Bones Come Skipping” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. sings; S. learn verses, then chorus. S. sing and play passing game (change ostinato pattern on chorus solo singing). 		
	High Concentration:	Review:	Practice <i>low la</i> and <i>low so</i> Game: “Poison” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. writes pentatonic pattern in stick/solfa notation. T. sings known motives; S. echo <i>unless</i> it’s the “poison” motive. T. sings on neutral syllable; S. echo in solfa. 	
		New Work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. read and inner hear “silent but deadly” motive from staff notation (<i>d l l, s.</i>) in F – do. S. identify “poison” from T. neutral syllable. 	
	Change of Pace		“Old Brass Wagon” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. play the game 	
	Moderate Concentration 1	Review:	Prepare  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. derive the number of beats in the first phrase. S. place text of the phrase “circle to the left, old brass wagon” in relation to the beat. S. derive known rhythms (beats 2, 3, 4). 	
		New Work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. “How many sounds are on beat 1?” (4 sounds) S. name all known rhythms, and discover that there is not a rhythm symbol for 4 sounds on a beat. 	
Moderate Concentration 2	New Work:	Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. read rhythmic motives from “Miniature Rondo.” S. play on counter-rhythm as C. sings “Old Brass Wagon.” T. “Is this rhythm the same as our song, or different?” (It is different.) S. read and play again as counter-rhythm; T. plays “Miniature Rondo.” S. read and play again; T. sings “mystery song” (“Tideo”). 		
Change of Pace		Game: “Tideo” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. play the game. 		
Ending		“Shanghai Chicken” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. sings verses; S. sing response and chorus. S. play the game. 		