

1 We all love to sing!

RESOURCES ▶ CD1 track 1 (performance); CD2 track 1 (backing)
▶ Warm ups: Nos. 10, 20, 24

Information

This original Malay melody belongs to a song entitled 'Rasa Sayang', about familial love and the understanding and support given to Malaysian children as they begin to make their way in the world. Here, in English, children sing in chorus, united in their joy of the simple pursuit of singing. In each verse children pay respect to their first teacher, whoever that may be.

Starting

- Warm the voice by singing down and then up the scale of C major to 'la', 'ra', and 'sa', not too fast, and keeping the head still without tipping it up. Enjoy making a nice even sound. Imagine your eyebrows gently pulling up your facial features, keeping the scale in tune.
- When everyone is focused, sing upwards again, this time adding the words 'Win! Heads or tails we always sing!', holding the first note on 'Win!' for two beats. Now we've learnt the coda, which ends the song.

Teaching and rehearsing

- Demonstrate the opening chorus, singing at a steady tempo and using only two breaths. Encourage the group to sing it back to you, breathing in similar fashion. Open mouths wide, particularly on the words 'love' and 'Hey!'. The tune to the chorus consists only of crotchets and minims and should feel strong and even.
- Work through verse 1 phrase by phrase. Aim to manage the last two phrases in one breath. The verse comprises mostly quavers and crotchets—quicker note values than the chorus—and the syncopated rhythms have the effect of propelling the music forward. But don't rush, especially on the opening four-note chromatic phrase; this should be practised separately if necessary.
- Sing the chorus again and add some piano if you can. If not, try beating out the accompanying quavers from bar 10 on a small drum, to show the link to verse 2.
- Now practise verses 2 and 3 in the same way. If children are reading from a song sheet or from an overhead screen they will pick this up quickly; teaching the words by rote will take a bit longer. A helpful hint: the choruses use 'we' and the verses 'I'.
- Now challenge the group to put it all together, singing the whole song. Can they add the coda, learnt earlier?

Ideas

- When the song can be sung confidently by all members of the group, invite individual children to sing a line or two as a solo, each child thus adding their personal contribution.
- Experiment with dynamics to show that they really matter. Try choruses loud and verses soft, or perhaps the opposite—how does this change the overall effect?
- Take the last line of each chorus and make a chant: 'When we're winning we all sing! Win or lose we always sing! For our supper we shall sing! Heads or tails we always win!'. This chant will serve as an aide-memoire if children are learning the words by heart.

Listen out

- Are the words being delivered with enthusiasm? Check that the chorus is sung really *legato* or smoothly, as this will help to generate a feeling of warmth.
- Make sure the upward scale at the end is in tune and that children have taken a large enough breath to support the top notes.

Performing

- This song is a good opener for any concert or presentation, but it could also be used to start the day, in a key-stage or school assembly.
- If soloists perform the verses, be aware of the balance with the accompaniment and keep everyone else totally silent and still. Remember that a rousing chorus must not be followed by an inaudible solo!
- The chant could be used as an introduction to the song.

1 We all love to sing!

Trad. Malaysian melody
Words/arr. Kevin Stannard

Cheerfully ♩ = 130

Chorus

We all

3

love to sing, Love the feel - ing when we sing. Hey!

7 *last time to Coda* ⊕

Sing - ing is the thing, When we're win - ning we all sing!
Win or lose we al - ways sing!
For our sup - per we shall sing!
Heads or tails we al - ways

11

1. I learned to sing songs be - fore I could talk, I learned to
 2. I sing a - long with the song - birds at dawn. I sing the
 3. So when a song makes me laugh, makes me cry, I know on

14

sing songs up - on your knee. I learned to run long be - fore I could
 school song at half past three. I start - ed sing - ing when I was
 one thing we'll all a - gree. To sing at night - time a lul - la -

17

Chorus

walk, I love the songs that you sang to me. We all
 born! I love the songs that you sang to me.
 - by, I love the songs that you sang to me.

CODA

20

rit.

win! Heads or tails we al - ways sing!