

Music Class

Aim: To have students sing an improvised melody on syllables or words; i.e. names, colors, favorite foods etc.

- 1. The teacher should demonstrate an example of "scatting" for the students; either "scat a melody" in front of the class or play a recorded example of scat singing.**

A basic approach is to sing syllables on a well known popular melody, then decorate or embellish the melody with neighboring tones or quick scale phrases. Another approach is to play a chord progression on the piano and sing syllables on an "improvised" melody over the chords.

- 2. Have the students sing syllables such as pa, ba, shoo be, ta on a melody. Also, some students prefer to make up their own syllables. Others like to sing on names; their own name or the name of a friend. Favorite food or color words are another popular choice.**

Students should spell out the scatting syllable or singing words where possible; i.e. the student can say the letter names, write or trace the letters, or point to the letters on a card or on the board.

- 3. The students should try to embellish the melody with neighboring tones, quick scale phrases, or interval jumps.**
- 4. Have students scat in various groupings; solo, duets, trios, as a class, etc. Also try a "call and response" approach with individual students or groups.**

Students may coach each other in scatting as well.

5. Play a chord progression on the piano, preferably a ii-V-I chord set for a "jazz" flavor and even modulate through a key cycle.

example:

Key Cycle: C - Bb - Ab - Gb - E - D - C

ii-V-I chord set for each key:

key of C: Dm7 - G9 - CM7

key of Bb: Cm7 - F9 - BbM7

key of Ab: Bbm7 - Eb9 - AbM7...etc

Apply a bossa-nova dance rhythm or any "swing" type rhythm to the chord progression.

If a piano (or guitar) is unavailable, or the performance style is too difficult, then a recording may be used instead.

The Jazz Play-A-Long set Vol. III - "The ii-V7-I Progression"

by Jamie Abersold is an excellent source.

see: www.jazzbooks.com/playalongs/Complete_Play-A-Long_List.htm

6. Have the students sing syllables on an "improvised" a melody over the chords. The melody can be more "free-style" when singing over chords.
7. Record the scating efforts of the students.
8. Well known popular melodies that may be useful in the scating lesson;
 - Little Brown Jug
 - Frere-a-Jacques