
Plans and Suggestions for Teaching Jody W. Lindh's

"Hosanna to the Son"

CGA-606

by Betty Bedsole

This is an excellent anthem for Palm Sunday. Consider having the children sing measures 8 through 42 as a processional. They could wave palm branches as they process. Try to pace the processional so that the children are in place and stationary by measure 43. They should also stop waving the palms at this time.

Week 1

1. Read or have a child read John 12:12-16. Ask the children to tell you about the events of the first Palm Sunday. Write their responses on a transparency or on a piece of poster board so they will have these responses in front of them as they learn the anthem.
2. Ask the children to open their music and follow the notes and words as you sing the anthem. Ask them to count the number of times they hear the phrase "Hosanna, hosanna, to the Son of David." (Children will listen more attentively if they are listening for something specific. The phrase occurs eight times.) Sing the anthem with accompaniment in a clear, light voice as expressively and musically as you can. (If you are not comfortable doing this, ask a soprano from an older choir to attend this choir as a guest and sing it for you. Give the children the best vocal model possible for they will imitate what they hear.)
3. Ask the children to be your echo. Sing measures 9-12 for the children to imitate. Have them sing the phrase several times on the vowel "loo" until the notes are secure and they are singing in a head voice with a clear tone.
4. Ask the children to sing the first phrase with the words. Add the accompaniment as they sing the phrase again.
5. Explain that you are going to play a listening game. "We're going to sing the entire anthem. You sing the phrase,

'Hosanna, hosanna, to the Son of David' and I will listen. I will sing the rest of the anthem and *you* will listen. Watch your music as you listen and as you sing." Sing the anthem with the children singing the phrase that they have learned, and you (or the guest that you invited) sing the rest of the anthem.

Week 2

1. Review what was learned last week by having the children sing the first phrase looking at the music on a poster or overhead transparency. Repeat the listening game in last week's lesson plan (step 5) with children looking at the poster or transparency while singing their phrase and listening to the rest of the anthem (without looking at the music). Show them the second phrase (measure 13-16) on an overhead transparency or poster board and ask them to listen and count the number of times it occurs in the anthem. (It occurs 4 times.)
2. Ask the children to sing the new phrase. Have them sing it several times until notes are secure. If they are having difficulty singing in head voice, have them sing measures 9-20 on the vowel "loo."
3. Show the children the phrase in measures 21-24 on an overhead transparency or poster. Since they have heard this phrase sung many times, most children will sing the phrase easily.
4. Help the children discover the form of the anthem. Give each child a copy of the **Chorister's Page**. Ask one child to read the opening paragraph. Ask the children to listen for repeated patterns as they sing the A section. Help them assign a letter name to each phrase.

a - Hosanna, hosanna, to the Son of David,

b - Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

a - Hosanna, hosanna, to the Son of David,

c - Glory, glory be to God on high.

Help them see that the A section (measures 9-24) is repeated in measures 24-41. Have the children fill in the small letters (abac) under each large A on their worksheet. Ask another child to read the last paragraph on the student's page. Ask the children to listen for the repeated notes while you sing measures 43-51. Let them tell you which part of the phrase is repeated. (Measures 46-47 are repeated with different words in measures 48-49.)

Week 3

1. Review what has been learned by having the children sing the A section twice (measures 9-41).

Chorister's Page

Discover the Form of "Hosanna to the Son"

The anthems that we sing in choir are made up of musical phrases. Some phrases are repeated several times, while other phrases are sung only once. Let's find the repeated phrases and those that only happen one time in the anthem "Hosanna to the Son." The overall form of this anthem is A A B A A'. That shows us that there are many phrases that are repeated and that the last section is a little different from the other three A sections. We'll use small letters to show the repeated phrases in the A sections.

A A B A A'

(meas. 9-24)

(meas. 24-41)

(meas. 43-61)

(meas. 62-78)

(meas. 79-101)

The music in the B section is completely different from the music in the A sections. In the B section, part of one phrase (measures 46-47) is repeated (measures 48-49). The other phrases in the B section are not repeated.

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2. Teach the B section by singing each phrase and having the children sing after you. Sing in short phrases first. When they can echo-sing the short phrases correctly, sing longer phrases for them to echo. Your primary goal this week is to teach the B section (measures 43-61). When pitches are secure, add the accompaniment.

Week 4

1. Review the B section of the anthem that they learned last week.
2. Teach the coda (measures 94-101).
3. Have the children sing the anthem from measure 43 to the end. Work on any pitches that are insecure.
4. Have the children sing the entire anthem with music and then from memory. The repetition in the teaching process will have enabled most children to have it memorized.

5. Work on any sections that are not secure in pitch or in memory.

Week 5

1. Practice the anthem, concentrating on any places that are not secure.
2. Go to the sanctuary and practice the processional. This process will probably show some parts of the anthem to be insecure. This practice in the sanctuary is very important. The children need to know exactly what will happen and when. They will be more confident and more successful if this is done.
3. Talk with the children about the important part they will have in leading their congregation in worship on Palm Sunday.

This is an excellent anthem. I think you and your children will enjoy learning it and I believe they will make a significant contribution to worship on Palm Sunday.